

Death March kara Hajimaru Isekai
Kyou soukyoku

Arc 16

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Epub : [TrolloWN/LN EPUB](#)

16–1. Effect of Slaying Demon Lord

Satou here. Somehow or other, there are times when you just don't know how to react when people value you excessively aren't there.



“We’re gonna visit Tenion Temple after greeting the king in the capital.”

After breakfast in the Solitary Island Palace, I told everyone the plan while enjoying the tea Lulu made.

I want to ask the previous Tenion head miko to see if there’s a way to communicate with gods.

“Then, I think it might be better to have the airship get down at Pendragon mansion once or go around a lap in the capital’s sky instead of directly going to the castle.”

“Why?”

I asked princess Sistina her reason for saying that.

“It would be better if you see it for yourself.”

After pondering a bit, she said that as she stood up. She told me that I would understand once I go the Pendragon mansion in the royal capital, so I did while feeling puzzled.

“What is this?”

There was a huge crowd in front of our mansion. Looking closer, there are even stalls.

“Apparently, every one of them came to see Satou.”

“Me?”

“Yes, 『Demon Lord Slayer』 is that great of a feat.”

I get what princess Sistina is trying to say. How do I say this, she has a really proud look on her face.

My sense had been numbed recently, but killing a demon lord was sort of a huge feat huh.

I was just trying to help Hero Hayato, but it appears even that has quite an impact.

Her suggestion of not directly landing the airship in the castle is probably for the sake of appealing to these sightseers.

“Thank you for your advice. Looks like I wasn’t considerate enough there.”

I draw the airship route in my head while thanking her.

–Pipiru! Piru! Piru!

As I was gazing outside the window while thinking, an emerald green feathered bird was chirping with a haughty look before I knew it.

“Hisui, have you told Her Highness in advance?”

–Pi! Pirupi! Piru!

Hisui averted its gaze and chirped as if making excuses.

Hisui was a bird princess Doris, princess Sistina’s little sister of the same mother, kept, but it got turned into [God Bird] due to a certain incident and ended up frequently dropping in here.

I’ll take Hisui along with me to castle and return it.



“My name is Sisusosu, commander of Royal Capital Air Defense unit. I am extremely delighted to be of service to your excellency Pendragon dearimasu.”

A unit of ten birdmen appeared when our airship got around the capital’s vicinity.

They told me that they had come to lead us when I asked them on the deck.

“I’d like to head toward the castle after a lap around the capital, is that alright?”

“Yes sir! Of course dearimasu! The people of royal capital have been coming to Pendragon Mansion every day in hope of taking a glance of your excellency Pendragon, they would be delighted if your excellency wave your hands to them from the deck dearimasu.”

This person talked really stiff.

And he's sweating profusely even though he's a birdman, maybe he's nervous?

"Got it, we'll do that. Please lead the way."

"Yes sir! This Sisusosu will bet his life to accomplish this mission splendidly!"

No no, you're exaggerating.

You don't have to bet your life just for leading the way.

When our airship was crossing the capital's outer wall, so many soldiers they looked like they were going to fall off had gathered on top of the wall, waving their hands to me.

Since they were shouting Pendragon name, they were probably welcoming us.

And when we have crossed over the military installations—

““PENDRAGON””

—I heard the voice of a crowd calling my house name in an ear-deafening volume.

The voice was a bit blurred because a lot of people called, but it was so loud I suspected it shook the entire airship.

The cheers became even louder when I waved my hand.

I saw some people fainting inside the crowd, so I secretly supported them with [Magic Hand].

『Arisa, could you bring everyone who helped with the demon lord subjugation here.』

『OK.』

I used Telephone to call the girls who were waiting in the Solitary Island Palace to come here.

"Oh, gureatto~?"

"Amazing nodesu! Everyone called Master's name nodesu!"

Tama and Pochi's eye turned round and they replied back at the crowd's cheers.

Looks like waving hands wasn't enough for them, as they run on top of the handrails while wagging their tails buzzingly.

"This feels somewhat embarrassing."

“Puff out your chest Lulu. This is proof of how great of a feat we have accomplished.”

“That’s right desuwa! Never before since the founding of Shiga Kingdom, someone other than heroes and their attendants ever slain a demon lord. It’s a very great feat desuwayo!”

Weirdly high spirited Lady Karina joined in Lulu’s and Liza’s conversation. Wonder if the reason why her tension goes up when it’s about heroes is due to the influence of her hero-loving father.

“Master, hoping for a rotation above the orphanage.”

Nana pulled my sleeves with an expressionless face.

“Fine by me, anything you took fancy there?”

“The density of young organisms is thick, it’s really cute.”

“...I see.”

Looks like it’s Nana’s personal preference.

Since we’re not really in a hurry, I let the airship circle around above the orphanage once.

And since Nana looks satisfied, this much service is fine right.

“Mwu, ears hurt.”

Mia complained while closing her ears.

Mia pouted for a while, but then she pulled herself together and started to sing a heroic tune.

Even though she doesn’t like the noise, looks like she doesn’t hate the voices that praises us themselves.

“But really, we’re so popular.”

–Pipiru! Piru! Piru!

For some reason, Hisui replied while haughtily puffing its chests to the admiring Arisa.

Apparently, Hisui thinks like it’s about itself.

–Chuii.

Before I knew it, Chuufat and the other sage mice are also waving their hands

on top of the handrail.

Just where did they slip into here.

I enjoyed the royal capital sky while smiling wryly.



“Uwaah, that looks amazing.”

“Parade~?”

“Everything’s glittery nodesu.”

“Nn, reception.”

The youth troupe were surprised at the spectacle before their eyes.

After circling the royal capital sky, the birdman unit was replaced with Wyvern Riders en route to the royal castle.

We followed them to a courtyard inside the castle.

Holy Knights and Royal Guard Knights in dazzling armors, and servants and court ladies in ceremonial dresses were standing in rows there.

It’s as if they’re welcoming a state guest.

When the airship landed and the boarding ramp was lowered down, I heard a live performance from behind the knights.

Looks like there’s an orchestra behind them.

I walked with the girls on the spread carpet in the courtyard, then I saw a familiar face when the front gate opened.

“I have returned from duty, your highness Soltrick.”

“Umu, good work returning back, Viscount Pendragon.”

I was surprised to see first prince Soltrick coming to meet us for some reason. I already knew that the prime minister, princess Sistina and Shiga Eight Sword’s Heim-shi were behind him because I had marked them, but I didn’t put a marker on the prince.

Since princess Sistina was supposed to be staying in the royal capital’s castle, she had gone back to her private room when our airship entered the capital sky. Hikaru and the first seat of Shiga Eight Swords, Zeff Julberg the 『Infallible』 are standing by in the audience chamber with the king.

“Great teacher nanodesu.”

“Heya~?”

Pochi and Tama lightly waved their hands to Heim-shi.

Heim had no reaction—no, the corner of his mouth was slightly raised, so he doesn’t seem to hate the two at least.

Several of the knights who were in the line were trembling while averting their faces, they apparently didn’t know he could make that face.

Un, do your best to endure it.

When prince Soltrick walked beside me in friendly manners, the jealous gazes from some of his close aides were a bit irritating.

I’m not gonna take your prince away, so stop with those gazes.

We walked through the passage and separated from them in front of a thick door leading to the audience chamber.

Two senior royal guard knights wearing ceremonial full armor are standing in front of the shut door, crossing their gaudy halberds.

When a bell-like sound could be heard from inside the door, the two pulled away their halberds and turned to us.

Four pages pushed the door open behind them.

“Vice Minister of Tourism Ministry, Viscount Pendragon, enter.”

I replied with a silent bow and stepped inside the audience chamber.

Since the place I was before was a bit dim, the light pouring from the skylight slightly dazzled my eyes.

My view returned to normal in an instant thanks to Light-Adjustment skill.

The king and Hikaru are already sitting on the thrones inside the audience chamber, the three dukes and cabinet ministers are standing on the wayside to the thrones.

The royal family, the prime minister and every one of Shiga Eight Swords are seemingly present too.

Usually, the king would have entered afterward, but for some reason he’s already sitting here today.

“Uwah, lotsa big-shots here.”

I heard Arisa’s low volume muttering.

Since I can’t look back, I use space magic [Distant View] to see behind, looks like the girls are all nervous.

I move my hand behind my back to signal them to [Relax].

The girls and I knelt down when we got before the two thrones where the king and Hikaru sat.

Come to think of it, Hikaru who’s treated as a Duchess is sitting in a throne, is that okay?

Though since they’re not hiding the fact that she’s the Ancestor King and the three dukes and other nobles don’t seem to mind it, I guess it is.

“Sir Pendragon, raise your face.”

I raise my face at the king’s order.

The king isn’t wearing his usual attire but ceremonial dress that’s usually reserved for coronation ceremony.

“In light of the great accomplishment you have done—”

Summarizing the long winded speech of the king, apparently, he’s raising my peerage and position as a reward for slaying demon lord, and I’m also granted treasures and some privileges.

As for the peerage part, I’m going to become an earl, Earl Muno, my direct superior, will become a marquis, Liza will become a honorary viscount, and Lady Karina and other girls will become honorary baronesses.

Raising our peerage immediately like this without waiting for the Kingdom Conference in two months is a special exception for my distinguished service.

My position went up from Tourism vice minister to minister.

According to the king, countries who are quick with their intel have sent letters welcoming my visits.

The treasures were historical things, but most of them were related to Ancestor King-sama, so they weren’t really of value. Hikaru herself is with us anyway.

I’ve gotten two privileges.

One is trade privilege that's related to foodstuff and spices—mainly tax exemption.

The other one is the right to establish a knight order, dunno what's this good for.

I don't plan to have a private military force, so the later probably won't ever be utilized.

According to marquis Kelten, who has strong connection with the military, knights who had heard about that beforehand replaced their armor with brand new ones in hope of entering into it, the blacksmith workshops in the capital were currently in full throttle.

I should spread news that knight order isn't happening before the blacksmiths die of overworking.

Victims from death march are better off left in my former world.



"Earl Pendragon, his esteemed is calling for you."

After coming out of the mentally fatiguing audience, a young man wearing page attire called out to me.

According to AR display, he seems to be a page of prince Soltrick.

"Who could that be?"

"You'll see for yourself."

What a blunt attitude.

The page began to walk as if it was only natural for me to follow him.

Un, I don't like this type.

"Everyone, go to where her highness Sistina is."

"Wouldn't it better if you're with me or Liza-san?"

"It's okay, it seems the one calling is the first prince."

I told that to the worried Arisa and the others.

"What are you doing! His highness is waiting!"

The page who noticed me not following him ran back and threw a tantrum. He's terribly running out of breath.

Looks like he had walked off quite far.

“What is with your tone, you a mere servant toward his excellency the earl.”

Liza retaliated by strongly hitting the tip of her magic spear on the floor.

The page cowered when he saw her angry look.

“D-demi human lowlife—”

The page seemingly couldn’t forgive himself for that, and insulted Liza while bluffing with trembling voice.

“Ara? A mere servant who isn’t even a noble dares to insult Viscount Kishresgalza? We should be allowed to give him a punishment here don’t we?”

“Punishment~?”

“Let’s do it like, zunbararin, nodesu!”

Tama and Pochi extend one-handed sword sized Magic Edge out of their fingers.

Their smiles look evil.

The page turned pale and sweated profusely.

“What are you doing, Quonz!”

A man wearing Holy Knight attire appeared in the passage.
He seems to be one of the first prince followers too.

Tama and Pochi instantly erased the finger Magic Edge.

“Bodan-sama!”

The page who found an ally recovered and clung to him.

“Don’t touch me you fool!”

The holy knight who coldly shook off the page bowed lightly and opened his mouth.

“Your excellency Pendragon, I beg your forgiveness for this person’s rudeness. His highness Soltrick is waiting, allow me to accompany you.”

He said it like a request, but it really was an order.
I wasn’t going to refuse if only they had acted this way from the beginning.

I don't dislike first prince Soltrick after all, and he's princess Sistina's older brother.

"I'll be going then."

I waved my hand to the girls and went with the royal guard knight toward the salon where the first prince was waiting.



"Congratulations, Earl Pendragon."

"Thank you very much, your highness Soltrick."

First prince Soltrick welcomed me full of smiles and invited me to a seat beside him.

The royal guard knight told the prince about the matter earlier and he curtly dismissed Quonz-kun the page.

It's been a while since I last saw a dry dismissal in a feudal society.

I pray that he won't have an unjustified resentment toward me.

"—I never thought you would subjugate Demon Lord together with the hero."

Oops, looks like the conversation advanced while I was reminiscing. I should listen to him properly since simply throwing random remarks seems like it'll be bad here.

"I was only acting as a support for Hero-sama and his attendants."

"That is enough to be called Demon Lord Slayer. I know that you're friends with the hero, but I do not think that is enough for the imperial princess of Saga Empire to recognize you."

Did I ever tell them that I was Hero Hayato's friend?

—Can't remember ever doing so.

It's not like I'm hiding it though, so I don't mind.

"I had some private talks with his majesty. I will take over the throne in five year time. From this year on, I will gradually take charge of his majesty's work."

Hmm, having to bear the fate of a large country at 32 sounds tough. I'll assist you from the shadow.

“And, capable personnels are needed for the stability of the throne.”

—Agree.

Securing capable personnels was the key to victory in the Romance of Three Kingdoms and [The Ambition of Akechi Mitsuhide.]

“The majority of the current ministers and nobles of Duke Bishtal faction have sworn to support me.”

The prince stopped there and powerfully stared at me.
His face looks like he wants me to guess something.

“You, after his highness going this far—”

“Cease.”

The prince stopped one of his followers who stood up and glared at me.

“Sir Pendragon, become my retainer. Leave Marquis Muno side and be directly under me. Of course, I promise you further fame once you are my direct retainer.”

“I am extremely honored, however, my lord is only one, his excellency Muno. I will have to decline your offer.”

The earnest prince froze while looking taken back.
I’m sorry for him, but for me personally, Marquiss Muno is the ideal boss.

“You bastard!”

“A direct invitation from his highness!”

“You intend to rebel against Shiga Kingdom—”

The followers stood up with red faces ahead of the prince.
These young noblemen who are often hot-blooded are even at the point of pulling out their rapiers.

“Cease it.”

The prince stopped his aides with a firm voice.
He waited for his aides to sheathe their swords and sit down, and turned to me.

“To be honest, I had never thought that you would refuse.”

The prince spoke with a shocked face.

From my perspective, his logic of thinking that I'd agree to it is the weird one instead.

"Do you think I am unfit to be the king?"

"No."

According to the prime minister and Hikaru, he seems to be much more capable than the current Shiga King right after his enthronement.

"Then, why?"

"I do not wish for fame."

I'm sure I said this already when I met him for the first time back then.

"Are you really saying that, after becoming an earl at that age and even a minister?"

The prince seemed astounded hearing what I said.

I mean, I didn't wish for neither.

Telling him that seemed like it would only worsen the situation, so I brushed it off with a Japanese-like vague smile.

"I understand. If you don't want to be my subordinate, be my friend instead."

I can finally assent with the prince.

He's princess Sistina's older brother after all, I can give as many OK as he wants if it's just being a friend.

"I will be visiting Duke Oyugock sooner or later. Be present as my friend then."

"Understood."

That wasn't really a way to talk with a friend.

Since he was educated to be the candidate of king of a large kingdom, this might be his usual attitude.

"Well then, Bodan will get in touch with you once the schedule is set."

The prince left his seat after saying that.

The prince was going to walk away with his followers, but then he looked like he remembered something and turned around.

“I will be attending my little sister’s wedding ceremony. Tell the date to my head aide.”

After saying that unilaterally, he left the salon.
By little sister wedding ceremony, is he talking about me and princess Sistina?

That reminds me, there’s only two months before the one year time limit passes.
The king didn’t say anything about it too, perhaps the thing about me being the princess’s fiancé was a joke.

I left the salon while escaping reality as such.

“”“Your excellency Pendragon! Let me work under you as a retainer!”””
“Earl-sama! Please come to the dance party in my house!”
””“Kyaa, Satou-sama!!”””

Civil and military officials, nobles wearing expensive looking clothes, and ladies-in-waiting and maids who seemed confident about their figures were waiting outside the salon.

Dealing with them seemed like it would be oddly tiring, so I fully opened the Japanese Smile, told them “I have some urgent business to do, do excuse me.”

“”“Your excellency Pendragon! Let me join your knights!”””
“I-I can use magic edge! Allow me to join your excellency Mithril Knights!”

I took a turn in a passage, and now holy knights and knights of another fiefdom, all men, flooded me.
All of them had bloodshot eyes, they’re a bit scary.

There was even someone who arbitrarily decided upon the knight order name among them.

“Pick-up~?”

I turned toward the voice on the side and met eyes with Tama who showed up from a shadow on the floor of a narrow passage intended for servant use. I jumped into Tama’s shadow at the same time I went into the narrow passage, moving to my mansion in the royal capital.

I throw myself into the sofa in the private room and sigh.

“You saved me.”

“Don’t worry be happy~?”

I pat the head of Tama who has curling up on my lap and thank her.

The effect of [Demon Lord Slayer] is quite huge.

I have a feeling that it might take a while before I could visit the capital’s Tenion Temple and ask about a way to communicate with the gods.

16–2. The Royal Castle’s Salon

Satou here. There are times when you’re taken aback by the surrounding people as they clamor about something you don’t care about yourself, right. I’d prefer for them to take it at face value instead of weirdly trying to read some secret meaning behind the words.



“Ichirou-nii, did Sol-kun try to solicit you to be his retainer?”

While I was making transformation sets for Pochi and Tama’s school commuting, Hikaru came by with some snacks on her hand. The things on the table, like the smocking jacket, flask cloth, sling, bag for indoor shoes, and dust cloth were all handmade by Arisa after she got carried away.

“I’m amazed you knew.”

“Un, cause Sete scolded Sol-kun about that.”

This Sete that Hikaru referred is the king’s nickname. According to the info on my map, his real name appears to be Seteralick.

“Why would he?”

“I mean, Sete and the others had already made the arrangement—”

According to Hikaru, the king and the prime minister are currently trying to persuade Duke Bishtal and Marquis Kelten from soliciting me away from Earl Muno—He’s a marquis now eh—behind the scene. Yet the prince Soltrick himself tried to make me his retainer, thus it provoked the king’s wrath.

“Well Sete was also at fault for not telling Sol-kun, and Sol-kun too nicely dropped it to the level of being friends, so he only got reprimanded, it’s fiine.”

Being a royalty seems to be a pain. I feel like they aren’t communicating normally enough as parent and child, but that might be just how it is between a busy king and a 32-year old son and heir.

Still, looks like even the king is troubled as to how to treat a demon lord

slayer.

“That’s not it you know?”

“It’s not?”

“Sete and pm seem convinced that Ichirou-nii’s true identity is Hero Nanashi.”

–It’s the opposite, the opposite. Hero Nanashi true identity is me.

Retorting aside, Hikaru only responded the king’s question with a vague Japanese smile, neither affirming nor denying it.

Hikaru isn’t the type that can be subtle with her gestures though, so they most likely have found out.

I did some flashy things during the Divine Punishment while bracing myself for the possibility of having my identity blown, so only this much is within my expectation.

“But, looks like Sete and pm think that Ichirou-nii’s real nature isn’t a normal human.”

Come to think of it, when we told the king and pm that there were two Nanashi, they thought I was a gods apostle.

“I’m just an ordinary man though.”

When I replied that, Hikaru gleefully laughed, “Ahaha.”

–How rude.

The entry on my status properly reads [Human] just you know.

“Putting aside the matter about whether Ichirou-nii is 『ordinary』 or not, it seems Sete thinks that you’re a 『Dragon Avatar』 who turned himself into human using Primeval Magic, you see?”

–Dragon?

“Isn’t that quite a leap of logic?”

“Not really you know~. I mean you beat demon lords all over and routinely saved the world from crises. Isn’t it quite obvious that you aren’t a normal person?”

Hikaru continues with that as a preface.

“Which means, you’re either a god’s apostle, a demon or a dragon, but a demon wouldn’t kill demon lords left and right like that, and a god’s apostle wouldn’t go against god’s will and proactively prevented monster stampedes. Therefore—”

Looks like [Dragon] is the only remaining possibility by the process of elimination.

The battle junkies, Black Dragon and Ancient Dragon, and the careless Heavenly Dragon, Ten-chan flashed in my mind.

I don’t think I’m that eccentric though?

I rarely ever damage the surroundings.

“Ah!”

Hikaru pointed at the wall clock and stood up.

“We’ll be late for the dance party if we don’t dress up soon.”

“Is it that time already?”

Glancing at the schedule table in my menu, it’s bad indeed.

We really can’t be late to attend a huge dance party sponsored by the king can we.



“So this is the ultimate dish which dyes over all thing as told in the legend!”

“This nose-stimulating smell is just wondrous.”

I heard voices of the glutton nobles from Oyugock territory—Marquis Lloyd and Earl Haku from a food cart that provides light meals.

I didn’t see them in the noon, just when did they get to the capital.

Don’t tell me that they flew here on airships for the sake of eating curry.

It seems the two are camping in the curry corner.

“I expected no less from the two celebrated gourmets. You went for the curry first thing first.”

The prime minister who requested the curry from me said that to Marquis Lloyd and Earl Haku while looking proud.

“Well well, if it isn’t your excellency prime minister.”

“It can’t be that you drove Earl Pendragon who has achieved something as great as slaying demon lord to cook this?”

“That cannot be, our wise and great prime minister would never do such folly.”

Marquis Lloyd and Earl Haku who were acting weirdly pompous started to pick a fight with the prime minister.

“Good evening, Marquis Lloyd and Earl Haku. I had asked our chef to cook these dishes, I myself didn’t have any hand on them.”

I didn’t want to see a fight between acquaintances, so I swiftly got between them and cleared the misunderstanding.

“So these are the dishes from Hero-sama’s country. To think the day where I could see the real thing myself would come!”

“It’s spicy, but really tasty.”

“You’re right, Soruna.”

I turned around to see the source of the cozy carefree voices and found Marquis Muno and his family enjoying curry along the wall in low key. Even though they’re one of the few quickly rising upper ranked nobles that can be counted on hands in Shiga Kingdom, Muno family’s humbleness never changes.

“Your excellency Muno!”

“Heya, Satou-kun. We’re having some curry here.”

Marquis Muno greeted me with the hand that held a curry spoon raised.

“It’s truly delicious—so this the dish that the first generation hero-sama and ancestor king-sama yearned all their life.... Ah, I’m in the annals of history right now.”

Marquis Muno said some incomprehensible things with an emotional face.

But really, if I knew that he’d be this delighted, I would have served some curry when we visited Muno territory.

“They’re good with fried prawns and cutlets too you know.”

“Erina!”

“Yes yes, Karina-sama. I’ve got them here already~”

Muno Marquisdom’s maid, Erina came back carrying a plate with fried prawns and cutlets inside.

The pieces of fried prawn around her mouth must be from her poison tasting.

No need to point out minor details.

“Satou, could I have a dance?”

When I was heartwarming watching Muno family, Hikaru who had gone all out with her dress called from behind.

Today she’s wearing make up properly, it makes her look like a different person.

“Karina-sama, would you let me have this dance first?”

Lady Karina who was stuffing her cheeks with curry didn’t say anything and could only nod with a complex expression on her face.

It’d be nice if she could learn from her big sister Soruna and raise her girl power a bit more.

“Look, demon slayer-dono is taking a woman’s hand.”

“Oy, that’s not her highness Sistina, is that?”

“That’s Duchess Mitsukuni!”

Attentive Ears skill picked up the nobles’ rustling.

When we got to the center of the dance hall, a lively tune of dance music started playing.

“It feels strange dancing with Ichirou-nii.”

Hikaru said some weird thing even though this wasn’t the first time we danced together.

“It’ll be nice if this moment continues on forever—”

“I’ll dance with you anytime you want.”

I mean, don’t raise a weird flag there.

That retort in my mind ended up being in vain as our dance ended without any problem and then I continued to dance with princess Sistina, Lady Karina and Sera in turns, moved to the lower noble area and danced with Arisa and the

youth troupe, and Lulu and the senior troupe.

The beastkin girls had a special training Arisa the other day, so they could dance well, sans some weird parts.

Of course, I've recorded all that so we can watch it back anytime.

After I danced with Zena-san lastly, daughters of lower nobles in the surroundings rushed in.

Since Zena-san's position was that of a lower noble in Seryuu earldom, it probably became the impetus for people who were holding back to step forward.

"Earl Pendragon-sama, please allow me to have a dance with you."

"Earl Pendragon-sama, my house is fertile! Make me your concubine to continue your lineage!"

"Earl Pendragon-sama, please have a dance with me. I don't mind if it's inside the bedroom at night."

Fair-looking women have gathered here, but they're a bit too honest with their desire.

Many also asked me to a dance when I became viscount back then, but this can't be compared to that time.

How do I say this, they're really desperate I can even feel bloodlust.

""""Earl Pendragon-sama, please—""""

The flooding girls pushed their bodies on mine.

Lots of them were unmarried women of around mid to highschooler ages, but some were widows at their 20s.

They were quite forceful—.

"Guilty."

"Earl-sama is soon to be married with her highness princess, his body is precious! Contacts from anyone besides his family is not allowed!"

They were forced to withdraw before Mia and Arisa's impregnable fortress pair and the fighting prowess of Lady Karina's chest.

Beauties who have gotten reputation as flirts in the high society could only

watch that from afar as they couldn't easily get close.

There were some terribly beautiful women enough to rob my eyes, but since they had [Squanderer], [Hard-bitten], and [Wicked Woman] on their titles, I ignored them along with the other women.

As terribly beautiful they are, they're still not at the level of Lulu anyway.

"Master! I have secured young organisms so I reported."

As I was watching the impregnable fortress pair doing their magic, Nana who went away by herself took little girls with her back in tow.

"Perodota—I'm sorry, Pendotagon... Auuu"

"Nice to meet you Earl-sama, my name is Sopoana, third daughter of Baronet Mousa."

"Earl Pendragon-sama, I'm Kisuna, seventh daughter of Baron Nito."

Children who just debuted in high society.

"Nice to meet you, young ladies. I'm a retainer of Marquis Munro, Earl Satou Pendragon."

I bowed like a noble would before the little ladies.

The children screamed in delight like kyaa when they saw that.

Arisa and Mia are looking here for some reason, I want to insist my innocence.

In one corner of the dance hall, I danced with the children, and their older sisters and older sisters of those sisters, it got out of control as the age kept increasing.

It seems I have to strongly decline when it's necessary to do so even if the other party is a kid.

The group of women who had circumvented the impregnable fortress pair began to walk toward here as their eyes which looked like that of carnivores kept staring at me.

It almost feels like they were shouting, "Hyahhaa! Time for the hunt!"

The dance hall got noisy just when I looked around trying to find a way to escape.

“His Majesty the king and his highness Soltrick!”

After the announcement, the king and the first prince went back.
Though, the king brought Duke Bishtal and Duke Oyugock back with him.

—Oh?

First prince Soltrick is looking at me with complicated eyes.
It's as if he thinks I'm an inhuman existence.

That prince broke the crowd apart like Moses as he walked toward me.
The little girls who were around me took some distance away in a hurry.

“Earl Pendragon, can I have a bit of your time?”
“With pleasures, your highness Soltrick.”

I've gotten a bit tired dancing while getting glued by the noble ladies, so this invitation is welcome to me.

As long as it's nothing troublesome.



“Am I bothering you in your socializing?”
“Not at all, I had just gotten a bit tired dancing, so I'm very thankful for having to accompany your highness.”

Invited by the first prince, Soltrick, I was led to a salon for royalty near the dance hall.
It appears there is a space equipped with an anti-spying magic tool to talk secretly here.

And the seat I'm led to by the prince is exactly inside that space.
Looks like he wants to have a secret talk.

“I got severely reprimanded by his majesty for trying to pull you to be my retainer.”

The prince sat on the salon's sofa and said that with a hard-to-read expression.
It's about the matter Hikaru told me before the dance party.

His aides are standing at a place away, it seems they won't approach us as

long as the anti-spying magic tool is still active.

–Oh?

Come to think of it, one of his aides has changed to someone I don't know.

"I have fired that page."

The prince seemingly noticed my line of sight and told that nonchalantly.

Looks like he was originally someone who worked under the third prince Sharlick.

He got discharged after the aging of the third prince by the yellow demon in the duchy capital, and got hired by the first prince to be his page after a period of working as a handyman.

Looks like he was hired because of his meek attitudes against high ranking people.

I wasn't interested in the details so I didn't really listen.

"Allow me to promise you again."

The prince straightened himself with a serious expression.

"I will not try to make you my retainer unless you willingly do so. I want us to be nothing more but friends and I ask you to correct me if I ever commit an error."

"I understand, Soltrick-sama."

It's convenient for me personally, so I obediently nodded.

Judging from what Hikaru said, the king and the prime minister seems to have wrongly guessed that me acting as hero Nanashi's body double was only for Hikaru to mimic my speech and conduct and I'm a being more powerful than Hikaru—a Dragon Avatar.

They treated me this delicately probably because they don't want to anger me and bring themselves the wrath of a dragon.

They'd have negotiated normally if I were ancestor king Yamato's body double or attendant.

In all likelihood, the king has probably hammered the prince with the possibility of me being a dragon.

Now, I personally am not going to neither deny nor affirm this rumor. There's probably no one suicidal enough to step on a bare minefield like a dragon's wrath, and now the upper echelon will probably stop pushing unnecessary marriage proposals on me.



"I should have taken my time to pick better."

First prince Soltrick said that while not showing his exhaustion in his face.

After the talk earlier, the prince introduced me to his retainers and nobles from Duke Bishtal faction, but there was quite a lot of them. Additionally, since Duke Bishtal was summoned by the king, a talented looking elite young man who was also the heir was introduced to me as Duke Bishtal's delegation.

The young man really looked like your model stuck-up noble, but since he was probing like he was handling an unexploded bomb, dealing with him was more tiring than him just being stuck-up.

After we finished greeting each others, one of the prince's aide started to speak with, "This is still a rumor" as the preface.

"Is your highness aware about the rumor of the discovery of the 『Holy Living Armor』 that's in the ancestor king-sama's legend?"

Holy Living Armor—it feels like I've heard this term from someone a long time ago.

"Some noble somewhere probably got deceived by a fraud again. What blasphemy."

A middle-aged noble from Duke Bishtal faction said that and the other nobles also seemingly convinced that it was a fake. This is probably a frequent fraud like how [Beria Magic Medicine] was in the labyrinth city.

"It might be the truth y'know?"

Just like Beria magic medicine.

"Hou? So Earl Pendragon is betting on the authenticity of the 『Holy Living

Armor』 being found?”

“What are you betting?”

“I’m sure Sir Pendragon will bet an article the like of us cannot even begin to fathom.”

Some of the nobles fanned me.

It seems to be a revenge play by people who don’t think well of me being the first prince’s [Friend].

“Then I will bet this.”

It’s a key made of diamond with a seven-colored jewel put on its shaft, a magic circuit from blue liquid is carved inside the body.

It’s one of joke items I made for the girls’ treasure hunting game.

It will emit beautiful blue light when you fill it with mana, but it has no magical effect at all.

“T-that’s!”

An intellectual looking noble was surprised when he saw the key. The way he was surprised almost made want to instinctively said, “Did you know ●●●●.”

“I cannot say for certain, but this is an insignia from the ancient Rarakie dynasty that was destroyed during the age of gods.”

Hee.

I try to recall the event of Floating Island Rarakie that happened in the middle of the Divine Punishment.

It does look similar with engravings that were in the capital of Rarakie.

Well, it’s just a mere coincidence....

“Then is this the key to move the flying castle and city?”

“T-true! The pattern inside this key looks like a magic circuit.”

Lured by the intellectual-looking noble, the other nobles also clamored.

“Earl Pendragon! Could I put mana in this?”

“Yes, do as you like.”

I nodded to the noble who asked with a desperate face.

The noble in question puts his mana, then the circuit gets clad in beautiful blue light and then, beautiful ripples of light are produced on the surface of the key.

“Blue light?!”

“Holy magic tool!”

“B-beautiful....”

The nobles are staring at it like they’ve been entranced.

How do I say this, the way they’re enthralled looks like they’d about to go kill each other any time, it’s scary.

They felt way more serious than the ladies earlier.

“Earl Pendragon, are you really sure you’re betting this extraordinary treasure?”

The first prince asked me.

He’s probably telling me that I can still pull back now, but it will have the opposite effect for sure.

Because the nobles who were entranced by the diamond key recalled about the bet.

“I-I will bet the toll tax collection right for the Molto river bridge!”

“Who’d need toll right for some random river like that! I will bet the right to Yukel silver mine!”

“Then I will bet our heirloom mithril sword.”

“Magic sword! I’ll bet the magic sword Forbidden handed down in Bisthal House!”

Forbidden?

Judging from the English name, it means [Prohibited] or [Taboo].

“What? Are you too cheap to bet Shaitan?”

“Ludicrous, like I’d use Shaitan as a betting item!”

The duke heir and the prince’s retainer are quarreling.

Apparently, Bishtal house has several magic swords as the heirlooms.

“Then I will bet the secret magic book of dyeing!”

“I’ll bet a military tool then!”

The place was filled with enthusiasm as people began to bet their magic equipment, scrolls, Blessing Orbs and magic books.

It somehow turned into a boasting event for their heirlooms.

On the other hands, people who don’t have anything to bet can only groan ‘gununu’.

“I’ll bet my granddaughter!”

“Then I’ll bet my little sister!”

Oy oy, you’re getting too carried away.
I don’t like these kind of things.

“Please exclude humans from the bet.”

“That’s unjust—”

“Accepted.”

The first prince quickly intercepted a noble who was going to object my declaration.

“Are you really sure you’re betting that?”

The prince asked once again.

“Yes. That was something I found inside a hill-like Octopus Kraken’s belly I encountered when I was journeying as Satou. Thus, I’m not sure if it has any value myself. If that is allowed, then.”

“Then, I will not object.”

At my explanation, the prince glanced at the nobles and nodded.

“But there is only one of this key, can this be bet?”

A key can’t be divided unlike money.

“No problem, people who obtain the key just have to share it in accordance to the value of the thing they bet.”

The prince asked the nobles, “You’re fine with that right?”, and the nobles replied positively with faces filled with desire.

After hearing that it will be split by the value of the bet, higher ranked nobles began to add dangerous-sounding things like copper and iron mines, gem deposits and trade rights.

Additionally, I asked the details of the rumor from the one who brought it up, and it seemed that the [Holy Living Armor] that became the source of this bet was discovered by explorers under Marquis Kelten. After the threat of monster stampedes was over, Marquis Kelten applied for the permission to deploy a large airship to the king, so the rumor seemed plausible.

The nobles are guessing that the airship is for the sake of transporting supply and soldiers needed to investigate the ruin the explorers discovered.

I think that there's a high chance of the armor really existing if the marquis even goes as far as mobilizing an airship, but according to the intellectual glasses noble, the family of Marquis Kelten have been often recorded to search for the [Holy Living Armor] and fail at it in history of Shiga Kingdom. Apparently, the nobles could bet this heartily because they had a huge chance of winning.

Well even if I lost the bet, that'd just mean losing a junk, no problem here.



"Oh, what should I do. I have dirtied this precious dress I borrowed from mother."

A girl who was speaking in monotone was blocking the passage when I was on my way back to the girls after leaving the prince's salon.

The monotone-speaking girl appears to be a baroness of Bishtal Dukedom. A particularly big bucktooth seems to be her charm point.

Since her house maid was watching while clenching her fist behind a pillar, there's no doubt that this is a farce.

I pass by her without stopping.

"I'm in trouble~. Really really in trouble~."

This time a muscular woman carrying torn shoes were in trouble, looking obviously unnatural.

“My shoes of the heel got torn~.”

Isn't that supposed to be [Heel of your shoes]?

Well, forget the heel, I think having the entire shoes ripped is just too much for an act.

This woman is also a noble from Bishtal dukedom.

“My young little sister is sick in bed. But my family is so poor we can't afford her medicine.”

An obese woman with jewels covering her entire body in bad taste appealed.

“My chronic disease—”

This time a dispirited woman with a make-up that made her look sickly was sitting, looking like a ghost.

I almost believed her for an instant, but according to AR reading, she's the very picture of health, so I walk by her without stopping.

I was made to witness these farces many times until I arrived at the hall. One thing they have in common is that they are all plain women related to Bishtal dukedom.

I have no doubt that this must be a plain harassment by Duke Bishtal.

I was planning to dispatch Echigoya Firm restoration unit to Bishtal dukedom to help the territory's revival in all earnestness but it seems to be a good idea to refrain from doing that for a while.

I'll leave it at the level of sending enough food so that there won't be anyone dying from starvation, like it's always been so far.

16–3. Imperial Princess Marriage

Satou here. In my elementary school days, I was taught that rain in a a fine weather was the [Fox's Wedding]. I remember finding it mysterious and having an image about it in my mind. For some reason, it was a girl with fox ears in kimono though.



“It has been a while Earl Pendragon.”

“Excuse me for my long silence, countess Litton.”

The day after the ball, I was invited to a tea party by a friend of Marchioness Ashinen, the wife of Labyrinth City's viceroy—Countess Litton, one of the influential nobles in the royal capital.

“You were a chevalier when we first met, but we're of equal standing now. Maybe you'll climb past me by next year.”

The countess spoke in a tone that could be either joking or serious.

“That won't be happening. My peerage won't go up further than now.”

“My? Does that mean you really won't become his majesty's or prince Soltrick's retainer?”

The countess was surprised with rounded eyes to hear me.

With her intelligence network, she should have known about it already, she's probably confirming it now.

And my choice still managed to surprise the countess who had prior knowledge about it.

I was led to the center of the countess's tea party.
To the seats where her close friends are sitting.

The first half of the topic was mainly about Hero Hayato and demon lord slayer thing.

It was the same thing I narrated in the first prince's salon yesterday, recomposed to put emphasis in things the ladies would like.

Since it was popular with them, I deemed it good.

“Satou-sama was visiting the south sea when the Divine Punishment happened right? Were the sea monsters coming to attack too there?”

“Yes, I beheld a fight between a kraken that was as big as a small island and the local army.”

“Did Sir Pendragon participate in the fight?”

“I only helped a little. Since the ship I was riding on had cannons on board.”

I didn’t use them though.

“My, so there were heroic tales over there too.”

“Hero Nanashi-sama and his Golden Knights were also playing an active role in the mid southern of Shiga Kingdom you see.”

“Is that right, I would love to see it for myself.”

I could see it to a degree using distant view magic, but only the outlines. The brownies who accompanied the girls had recording machines with them.

“The smaller countries at the western part of the continent are apparently still in confusion by the monster stampedes from the Divine Punishment.”

“There aren’t many rumors about Saga Empire at the northern part of the continent are there.”

“I mean, that country has a lot of warships and strong knights at their disposal.”

“And it’s said that they also house many holy swords and holy relics left behind by heroes-sama of the olden.”

I see, the popular belief is that, besides at the western part of the continent, the situation is stabilizing.

Additionally, people believe that the weasel empire at the eastern part of the continent has been annihilated, and only Dejima Island remains.

In fact, the parishes on the edge of Weasel Empire are still going strong, but that doesn’t seem to be known.

“Let us leave all the exaggerated talk to the men.”

The countess changed the topic when it was the time for the cakes to come. I’m also a man, but for some reason, I was included in her frame.

“Sir Pendragon, you were quite popular last night weren’t you?”

The countess who attended the ball yesterday touched upon that topic.

So cruel, even though she knew that I was covered in little girls besides my family.

“I heard that his excellency Bishtal gathered the best of beauties among his relatives, was there anyone who caught Sir Pendragon’s eyes?”

The countess asked with a smile on her face.
Looks like she also knew about the harassment yesterday.

“There was a lot of unique ladies.”

To the point I want to interrogate Duke Bishtal just from where did he gather them.

“One of my lovers told me this—”

A voluptuous lady sitting on the same table as me started to talk in sexy voices.

“—The rumor about Holy Mobile Armor is spreading again.”

The lady winked at me.
I’m sure she knows about the bet I did in the first prince’s salon.

“Isn’t it right, Sir Pendragon.”

She urged me with sexy voice when I tried to ignore her, so I stated what happened yesterday.

I told them about how I bet a diamond key with a joke circuit inside for the fact that Holy Mobile Armor does exist, while the other nobles bet their rights, mines and things like that.

“My, even if they knew they were winning, everyone acted like a child.”

One of the ladies got angry at the nobles who participated in the bet.
These ladies also seemingly think that there’s no chance of the Holy Mobile Armor getting found.

“Lord Pendragon, please show us the diamond key you’re betting.”

“Yes, I don’t mind.”

I readily consented to a young lady’s request, took the diamond key out of my breast pocket and put it on the table.

“My....”

“What a big diamond.”

“Moreover, it’s so beautifully crafted.”

“The delicate craft is wonderful indeed, but there’s something resembling a magic circuit inside it too.”

“This must be an artifact from the age of gods.”

The ladies all were staring at the key while exchanging words in excitement. The breast area of the lady sitting in front of me is getting dangerous, so I slightly avert my line of sight.

“Satou-sama, what kind of power does this artifact hold?”

“As far as my investigation goes, it’s 『It has no effect by itself. It’s possible that there is another magic device to pair it with.』”

Possibility is infinite after all.

I smile at the lady who looks befuddled, and put my mana onto the magic circuit made from blue liquid inside the key to show off its beautiful pattern.

“Blue light!”

“I wonder if it’s a holy relic?”

”–So pretty.”

“Oh how wonderful isn’t it?”

“No wonder the men went wild with their bet.”

The ladies are watching blue light coming from the key in rapture. You can make one with colored glass and light stone if you only prepare an earth magician and a magic tool engineer though.

The countess gave me an info in a low voice on my way back from the tea party.

The third prince, Sharlick has escaped from the northern monastery and is currently missing.

Feels like it’s been a while since I heard someone with Sharlick name besides the second king.



“School.”

“We came to school nodesu!”

“Sensing the presence of young organisms so I report.”

The day after the tea party, I’ve come to the royal academy child school along with Tama, Pochi and Nana in their disguise sets.

I tried to invite the other girls, but Lulu didn’t seem to have good memories about school and had a sorrowful look on her face, Liza obstinately objected with, “It is unnecessary for me.”

Lady Karina who needed the education the most declined, “I don’t wanna go to school at this age desuwa”, and when I consulted princess Sistina, she told me that she’s going to participate in a training for homemaking associate along with Sera and Zena-san.

I indirectly told her that my feeling was directed solely to Aze-san, but princess Sistina and Sera said to me, “We know”, while smiling nicely. I wanted to ask them what kind of meaning did that “We know” contain, but since I felt like that would be stirring a hornet’s nest, I kept my silence.

“Here~?”

“It’s smaller than knight school nodesu.”

“Small things are good so I inform.”

I head to the headmaster room while taking the three who are looking around restlessly.

The last time I came here was during Shiro and Crow’s enrollment.

“Welcome to our school, your excellency Earl Pendragon.”

“It’s been awhile, headmaster-dono.”

I put down my hood and bowed like a noble to the headmaster. Tama and Pochi mimicked me.

“I thought they were Kishreshgalza sisters, but it appears I was mistaken.”

Today, Tama and Pochi are using transformation sets to turn into different catkin and dogkin from their usual selves.

At first, Arisa insisted that they should disguise into cat earkin and dog earkin, but since the two said that they didn’t like having their fur repressed, I prioritized their wish.

Nana is using a normal disguise mask and a red wig.

“To tell you the truth, headmaster—”

I told him about the three’s identities and that they were in disguises to not hinder their education.

“I see—your excellency is right in his judgment. I swear that I will keep quiet about their secret for the sake of their study.”

“I’m grateful for your understanding.”

I said my thank for the headmaster’s goodwill.

Afterward, a female teacher explained to us about the study method and our business was over.

Holding Nana back from barging into the classrooms was the slightly difficult part.

Since they’re going to enter Shiro and Crow’s class starting tomorrow, I should tell Shiro and Crow and ask them to rein on Nana.

“Shate~?”

“Mabudachi is there too nodesu!”

Tama and Pochi found their friends from the knight school.

Tama’s tail stood straight up, Pochi’s tail wagged so hard it looked like it would flew off.

I caught the belts of the two who were about to jump, stopping them.

“Nyu~?”

“Bullying is bad nanodesuyo?”

I’m at a loss as to how to explain to the two who were tilting their heads.

“You two are in disguise right now—”

I hesitated to say ‘so you can’t go’.

“Nyu nyu nyu~?”

“Getting found out is no good nanodesu?”

Tama and Pochi lowered their eyebrows sorrowfully.

Eh isn’t it fine?

Their friends should be able to keep it a secret, and even if they get found out, I'll just have lots of dummy dogkin and catkin children going to the school and slip them into the crowd in new disguises.

And above all, learning from failures is necessary for children.

"Shatee."

"Mabudachi nanodesu."

The two ran straight to their friends when I gave them the permission.



"That's a high speed airship of Saga Empire."

I muttered while looking up at an elegant-looking airship that was descending.

I was summoned to the royal castle the day after Tama and Pochi renewed their old friendship.

According to Hikaru who informed me earlier, a delegation from Saga Empire was coming to visit.

Hero Meiko who got many serious injuries to the point that she almost turned invalid due to Zaikuon War has already returned to Saga Empire.

The delegation's purpose is probably delivering a letter of commendation for the matter about Hero Meiko's recovery.

"That's an airship exclusive to royalty."

First prince Soltrick muttered flatly.

He didn't speak further so his aides also kept their silence.

It's a bit uncomfortable.

I knew from the AR information that the Second Imperial Princess Maryest Saga was on board the airship.

She was probably dispatched because she was related to hero.

"Let's go."

After the airship had landed and the wind calmed down, the first prince stepped outside the airport building.

I followed one step behind him.

The side of the airship opened and girl who was around highschooler age showed herself up in a pure white dress.
She's not princess Maryest.

"Nice to meet you, your imperial highness Trimenus. Welcome to Shiga Kingdom."

The first prince greeted the imperial girl.
Looks like she's a niece of princess Maryest.

"Thank you for your reception. Your highness Soltrick. I'm deeply honored to be graced by your presence."
"Let us not talk standing in such a place. This way to the castle."

The first prince brushes off his mantle grandly and walks to lead the empire girl.

"Ara? Satou is here to greet us too?"
"It's been awhile your highness Maryest."

Ms Maryest who was wearing black dress like she was mourning addressed me candidly

"Has Rin returned to Shiga Kingdom too?"

Lady Ringrande was treated by Echigoya Firm when I took her under my protection along with Hero Meiko, but she went with Hero Meiko to Saga Empire as an escort when I sent the hero back there.
Judging from Ms Maryest's way of talking, Lady Ringrande probably left Saga Empire before she departed on the airship.

I lightly search the map.

Lady Ringrande seems to be in the vicinity of Oyugock Dukedom's Mountain Grapevine.
Her dot isn't moving, she's probably doing something at Mountain Grapevine.

I lightly use [Distant View] magic to look at her, she's looking down at the great river from atop of a boulder.
Is it just my imagination or does she look melancholic.

"I haven't looked into it, but since Oyugock Dukedom party are in the royal

capital, I will ask them later.”

“Thank you.”

We followed behind the imperial party while having that conversation.

My Attentive Ears skill picked the secret talk between the imperial girl who turned around and glanced here and her lady-in-waiting.

“This was the first time I saw Aunt Maryest intimately conversed with someone besides Hero-sama.”

“That person is Viscount Pendragon-sama who subjugated the demon lord together with Hero Hayato-sama.”

“My, that is the one? He’s quite young isn’t he.”

“He’s the same age as my lady.”

The imperial girl steals a glance here in a different meaning than earlier. It’d be rude of me to ignore her so I smiled back once.

“Satou, do you prefer a quiet girl like that more than a girl like Rin?”

Ms Maryest asked in whisper.

The imperial girl who seems normal looks preferable compared to the siscon Lady Ringrande who’s hard to handle.

“Both of them are beautiful, but I don’t fall in love with younger girls.”

Ms Maryest is 22, so from my point of view she’s also younger. She feels older than that since she’s composed though.

“Really? I heard that men prefer younger girls though?”

“It depends on the person. I personally prefer girls that are older than me.”

Specifically about 100 million year old.

“...I see.”

Ms Maryest closed the topic after that.

Afterward, they announced their gratitude and conferred medals to me for having saved Hero Meiko and the matter with demon lord subjugation. I got several kinds of medals from Saga Empire and was acknowledged as a Saint by Parion Temple.

Trimenus the imperial girl who's acting as the ambassador seems to be a candidate for the first wife of the eldest son of the next king, First Prince Soltrick.

The imperial girl is 16 so she's come to age, but the eldest son of the first prince is still 10, thus she's treated as his fiancée for the time being.

According to an aide of the first prince, some were clamoring for princess Maryest to be put forth as a candidate for the first prince's wife, but since the hierarchy of his wives would get complicated then, it was settled with having Trimenus as a candidate for the first wife of the son.

It seems you need a sufficient standing in order to become a spouse of a Saga Empire's princess.



"Shrimp tempura cooked by Satou-dono are special after all."

"Nein! Satou-dono's red ginger tempura is the supreme one!"

Evening of the day of Saga Empire's reception, we, [Team Pendragon] was invited to a ball held in Duke Oyugock's royal capital mansion.

We were supposed to be the guests of honor, but I'm doing the cooking with Lulu in order to evade marriage proposals in the ball reception.

Marquis Lloyd and Earl Haku have become the barricade.

"-Ande-sama!"

I could hear clamors from the mansion's entrance.

The ball hall's door opened with a thud and a beauty in knight attires showed up.

""""Ringrande-sama!""""

Lady Ringrande who was in Mt. Grapevine this noon went around to greet nobles of Oyugock Dukedom while smiling vigorously.

She's fast, even with Flying Horse.

She might have gotten a new kind of ride.

"Grandfather, father, it has been awhile."

"Rin! You're alive!"

Lady Ringrande's father hugs her while shedding tears.

"You've done well to complete your mission. I'm proud of you."

The duke had tears on the corner of his eyes even while announcing that dignifiedly.

It appears Lady Ringrande didn't come home and went straight to support hero Meiko after the demon lord subjugation.

While I was warmly watching that scene full of familial love, the tempura had disappeared into the belly of gourmet nobles of Oyugock Dukedom, and I was taken away to an after party to commemorate, organized by Toruma. The after party in this world is something like a drinking party, so I've urged the girls go home ahead of me.

"You're really, you never change even after becoming demon lord slayer do you?"

"Humans don't change that easily."

Lady Ringrande who brought an expensive looking wine bottle with her plopped down beside me.

While I was sipping the wine glass, Lady Ringrande told me about what happened to Hero Meiko after she returned to Saga Empire.

"She was a bit unstable emotionally, but she did her job and went around to visit places where many disasters happened due to monsters together with Parion Temple's priests to offer help."

After saying that in normal tone, Lady Ringrande pulled my ear and told me extra info.

"Saga Empire has summoned other heroes besides Meiko. I don't know the exact number but I'm sure it's not only one. They have at least summoned more than two heroes."

Un, I knew.

"Hero summoning requires an enormous amount of mana and prayer to gods. They shouldn't have been able to easily do the summoning like this. Perhaps, the empire meddled in something they shouldn't put their hands on...."

Lady Ringrande muttered while looking anxious.
She looks really sexy, but please at least realize that you're at a distance where I can feel your breath.

The nobles around us have been sending curious glances like crazy here.

"Oh Rin! I have no objection if your marriage partner is Pendragon!"

The drunken duke instigated, and the other nobles were quick to follow suit.

"That's a good idea! Satou's and Rin's child is sure to be a hero that leaves marks in the history!"

Toruma who reeked of alcohol hugged the two of us who then got glued together.

"That sounds nice. If Hayato isn't here—"

Lady Ringrande muttered while looking anguished, and then she leaned coquettishly on me.

She looks quite wasted.

The surroundings sent high pitched screams and hoarse booing here.
But you guys were cheering just now, so cruel.

The duke and Lady Ringrande's father look satisfied.

"Mwu."

"Guilty!!!"

"Ane-sama!!"

I heard those voices from the hall's entrance.
I saw the impregnable fortress pair and Sera who came to get me coming here at a quick pace with indignant look on their faces.

You girls, this is an act of god you see.

16-4. Inspections

Satou here. In my programming days, I was able to pull through the overtime hell while enduring myself from flipping out by the jostling waves of frequent spec change by the whims of my superior and clients.

However, just because I went through it, coercing my subordinates to also go through it like it's only natural when I'm the one on top feels wrong somehow.



"Jaa jaa~n?"

"Ja ja ja~n, nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi who are wearing backpacks make a shutan pose and look at me.

"You two look cute."

"Nihehehe~?"

"Pochi is getting embarrassed nodesu."

They partly closed their eyes pleasantly when I patted their heads furnished with yellow hats.

Pochi's tail is wagging so hard it looks about to fly off.

When I was going to separate my hands, Tama stretched herself and pushed her head on it, so I lightly clapped my hands to tell them it was over.

And then, Nana who was leading Shiro and Crow by hands came.

"Masita, morning."

"Good morning, masita."

"Master, we're all here so I report."

Nana lifts up a yellow clutch bag with a chick embroidery on it.

This was made in a hurry in order to persuade Nana to equip a school bag.

I've put a private space storage on it like with the fairy bag, it's a lesser

version that can hold about half a tatami wide of content.

"Master, good morning zamasu."

"Zamasu?"

It was Arisa and Mia in female teacher cosplay.

Today, these girls have cleavage.

Through the fake breast camisole that Arisa and Mia petitioned me to make.

"You two are going to teach in a magic school special lecture today right?"

"Right."

Mia nodded to affirm me.

"If it's Arisa and Mia's lecture, could I perhaps attend it too?"

Princess Sistina asked Arisa and Mia.

"The content is the same as the thing we've always talked about with Tina-sama you know?"

"Nn, summary."

"That might be so.... But I still want to ask things I want to ask."

When the two told her that there would be no point in asking now, Princess Sistina pouted a bit.

"Isn't it fine, you two."

Since I've got to see a rare expression of her, I'll give her a hand.

"But if Sistina-sama attends the lecture, someone might shrink away from it. Therefore--"

I took out a disguise set and told them that she could just go with them as their assistant.

"Just what I'd expect from Satou. You're fine with that right, Arisa? Mia-sama?"

"No choice then. Let's go together Tina-sama."

"Nn, approved."

The two approved while smiling wryly when they saw Princess Sistina who were beaming to obtain the disguise set.

"Master, the lady of house of Marquis Kelten has arrived."

"It's China."

"China-sama came, Masita."

A maid told me that a carriage that carried Marquis Kelten's daughter, China Kelten had arrived.

She has always stopped by this mansion and let Shiro and Crow joined the ride ever since their enrollment.

"Good morning! Shiro, Crow!"

"Morning, China-sama."

"Good morning, China-sama."

Shiro and Crow ran up to the carriage and greeted the little girl--China Kelten.

China who opened the door and showed herself up got caught by a shadow.

Needless to say, it's Nana.

Her knight guards have their hands on their swords, looking tense, but China herself looks at Nana, who's rubbing their cheeks together, in confusion.

"W-w-w-what? W-who are you?"

"--I'm sorry. You must be surprised."

I got close to the confused China with Ground Shrink and lightly whacked Nana's head.

"Master, young organisms are to be protected so I inform."

"China-dono is shocked, see? If you want to hug her, ask for her permission first."

"Yes Master."

Nana lowered China reluctantly.

Miss China runs up to behind Shiro and Crow with small-animal like movements.

Shiro and Crow themselves covered for Nana, saying, "Nana-sama", "Don't be scared."

"Nana? By Nana, you mean Nana Nagasaki-sama who's accompanying that Earl Pendragon-sama the 『Demon Lord Slayer』?"

"Affirmative so I inform."

Miss China asked Shiro and Crow, and Nana affirmed it after matching her line of sight with China.

"T-then, that black haired gentleman is!"

"Masita."

The excited miss China asked Shiro who was at her usual pace.

That's not an answer.

"Masita?"

"Un, Nana-sama's master (dannasama), masita. Earl Satou Pendragon the 『Demon Lord Slayer』."

"E-e-e-e-earl, earl earl earl, earl-sama?"

When Crow told that to Miss China who asked with her head tilted to the side, Miss China chewed her words like a broken record.

"My name is China Kelten. Granddaughter of Marquis Kelten--"

Miss China twirled and bowed like a lady.

To be able to take a graceful conduct in this situation, she must have been taught about it regularly.

I introduced myself and replied back like an adult noble would.

"China-sama, can Nana-sama go with us today?"

"Yes, of course she can."

Nana followed into the carriage after Shiro and Crow.

"Young organisms can sit on my knee so I advise."

"Nana-sama, you can't that's dangerous ."

Nana who was going to act upon her desire was scolded by Crow and fell dejected.

"Then, we'll be going too."

"Departing."

The carriage that carried princess Sistina, Arisa and Mia departed after Kelten house's carriage.

I went back into the mansion after seeing the carriages off.

"Satou, can I go with you inspecting military installations?"

"Yes, I don't mind."

Lady Karina asked for my permission to which I approved.

By the first prince Soltrick's invitation, I'm going to inspect military installations with Liza, starting from the Royal Knights'.

"Zena-san, could you also go with us?"

"Y-yes! If I'm allowed to!"

I'll be counting on Zena-san to be Lady Karina's chaperon.

"How about you two, Mito and Sera-san?"

"I don't think I'm that fond of military installations."

"I would like to decline too."

Then only Liza, lady Karina, Zena-san, and I will be coming to the inspection.

"Satou, you're going to attend the completion celebration ceremony of the new airship model right?"

"Yeah, of course."

It's a warship whose frame is created by the kingdom's workshop installed with an aerodynamic engine sold by Echigoya Firm.

It seems to be a warship for transporting land troops which also has the capability to perform support bombardments for cleaning up monsters.

It appears to be equipped with an ancient weapon called [Magic Ordnance] that was excavated in a ruin in a territory under direct control of the king.

I'm intrigued by the ancient weapon keyword, and looking forward to the ceremony.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka.com you

might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Good morning, Kuro-sama."

"Morning, Tifaliza. I've got some time until noon, so I'm here to inspect the workshop and each departments. Is there any department I should go see to?"

"Yes, I'm going to make a listing, please wait a minute."

When I came to Echigoya Firm office, Tifaliza who was buried in documents welcomed me.

Right after I took a glance at the list Tifaliza gave me, the manager's luminous point rushed up to the office along with the noisy footsteps.

The sound stopped dead on track, then after a bit, knocking sounds resounded.

"It's Elterina."

"Enter."

The manager came in with a composed expression on her face.

Her graceful conducts belie even the footsteps earlier.

It's always been in my mind, does she seriously think that I didn't hear her footsteps earlier?

Well, I'm not gonna pursue it though.

"I'm going for an inspection now. Come with me."

"Yes! I understand."

The manager promptly answered.

Tifaliza who's carrying a binder is standing beside the manager with a face that says it's only natural. Saving me the trouble of inviting her.

First, to a nearby place, let's go to the Aoi and Professor Jahad's office.

"--Prof! You ate my pudding again didn't you!"

"Oh shut it! Sugar is necessary for inventing stuff!"

I heard gluttonous voices the moment I opened the door.

Aoi boy who looked like nothing but a beautiful girl when I first met him has grown taller and had slight voice change, gradually looking less and less like a girl.

"Ah! Kuro-sama and Elterina-sama, hello!"

"What, I haven't completed my invention yet y'know?"

In contrast to Aoi boy who greeted us when he noticed, Prof. Jahad only snorted grumpily. Guess there's a reason he's famous as an odd person.

Prof. Jahad is currently researching a [Magic tool that can reciprocally produce mana and electricity.]

He successfully made a magic tool that could produce electricity from mana right away, but he's having a hard time making the opposite.

"That's cause Prof is always playing with the motor isn't it?"

"Fool! I'm trying to find out the principle and trait of 『Motor』 to investigate the connection between it and magic tools with similar effect."

Prof Jahad replied back Aoi boy with a plausible explanation, but his sweat streaming down his cheeks and averted line of sights snatched away the credibility of his words.

Electric motors probably look very fascinating for a rotation maniac like him.

"I don't mind. The mechanism that alters a part of aerodynamic engine's buoyancy to propulsion is enough for the present term. Turn your current invention for the next term."

Although it's not usable for large airships, this mechanism can greatly lower the cost of small airships if installed.

Presently, it's only equipped in airships made by Echigoya Firm, but since I've released the theory behind it to the Royal Academy, other factories should make use of it too before long.

I turn to Aoi boy next.

"I heard from the report that you've made a prototype?"

"Yes! Please wait. I will try it on."

--Try it on?

I was going to stop him due to a bad feeling I got from that, but I missed that timing since Prof. Jahad had begun to explain about the inventions he made for his hobby.

"Kuro-sama! Please have a look!"

Aoi boy who had changed into short pants showed his invention with a face that looked like it was accompanied by "Jaja~n" sound effect.

"How is it?"

Aoi boy asked worryingly asked that to me who had no reaction.

....The product itself is fine.

However....

"At least ask a woman to try those on."

I'm not advanced enough to get a throbbing from looking at a boy wearing stockings.

"Is that all the thickness and color you have?"

"I have prepared from 20 denier to 50 in 10 increments, I also have the best 25 denier but the color is only black and white. The natural skin color one is not yet done and currently under research."

No no, I don't understand what's this denier thing.

I would love to see Lady Karina and Lady Ringrande in bunny girl costumes, but the impregnable fortress pair will definitely drop down the [Guilty] card if I actually attempt to.

"Do you think these will sell to female nobles?"

"Yes, I think they will."

The manager promptly replied.

Since these make your legs look thinner, even commoners probably will end up wanting them too besides the noble girls.

"I'll leave the marketing strategy to manager. Ideally it should be accessible to people other than nobles in five years."

"Understood."

The manager affirmed.

Her face looks fully eager to wring out the ladies.

If we overcharge them, we can probably recoup the cost of the workshop and product development in five years.

Because there's a lot of nobles who like [Something Special] even if it's expensive.

"Aoi, you've showed better results than expectation. We will give you vacation time and extra bonus. You can rest your body at the recreational

facility of Echigoya firm."

"Thank you very much! But since I've already started with the next research, please postpone the vacation until after that."

Looks like Aoi boy has been caught in the workaholic demon's grasp.

"Just don't overwork yourself."

While giving him a warning, I put a bag with salty grape candy inside.

They're for replenishing calorie and salt.

"Ou! Candy!"

"Hold it Prof! Don't monopolize them all. Half of them are mine okay."

I turned my back on the two who had begun to quarrel over the candy and went out of the lab.

Afterward, I visit the other laboratories in turn.

Research about Aoi boy's idea, the instant food, is split with several researchers and progressing even now. Producing it is possible but it needs magicians and expensive magic tools, so the current objective is to reduce them.

At the magic tool development research department, many are developing consumer goods, and the most popular one is development of golem carriages for nobles.

It'd be disastrous if traffic accidents were to happen, so I've put a limitation that prevents golem carriages from going faster than a normal carriage.

People who wanted to promote their research came and asked for a competition to be held regularly.

The remaining time to inspect the workshop has been considerably reduced because so many researchers were like that.

To save time, I teleported to the workshop.

"Ku-Kuro-sama?!"

"My bad. I'm pressed on time."

I apologized to the surprised Porina and went in to inspect the workshop.

"Looks like there's less exhausted-looking people compared to the last inspection."

"Yes, just as Kuro-sama has instructed, we have prohibited the workers from coming to work three days straight and given bonus to people who take more than four days off a month, working hours per person has greatly decreased."

When I came here before and looked at the time table, I noticed that there were a lot of people who had excessive work hours like 28-day and 37-day nonstop service, so I ordered her to reduce the workshop's operation time and regulate continuous labor.

"I couldn't believe my ears when Kuro-sama told me to give bonus to people who take days off instead of those who don't, but I was made to admire Kuro-sama's keen insight once again when I saw the workers had regained their energy."

It kinda doesn't feel like a compliment somehow.

Well, guess it's ok. Let's just be satisfied with the success of preventing people dying from overworking in my own workshop.

"Kuro-sama, the portion lost from the reduced production has been outsourced to another workshop with excess labor, so Echigoya Firm's earnings haven't dropped."

I nod to the manager's words.

Our earnings are already abnormal anyway, I would have been fine if she didn't try too hard to maintain it.

"You've done well Manager. Porina too, don't forget to take care of your health too along with the workers."

I gave nutrients with sleep inducing medicine to Porina who had shadows under her eyes.

If the boss is tired, it'll be hard to keep an eye on the subordinates.



"So? What do you think of this royal guard knights?"

"They look tough."

After finishing Echigoya Firm inspection, I turned back to Satou, took a quick lunch and joined the prince who went to inspect military installations.

We're currently watching royal guard knights training that look like a dance performance.

Zena-san is high-strung because we're with the prince and his aides, while Liza and Lady Karina are looking for strong people whom they can fight with.

These two really stay at their own paces.

"--Tough? Are you telling the truth Sir Pendragon?"

"Who is it!"

The first prince asked for the identity of the person who called me from behind.

The crowd is cut apart like a pulling tide, Sir Heim of Shiga Eight Swords showed up from the formed path.

Even though he's wearing first-class knight attires, there's an air of a front line soldier around him somehow.

"Heim huh."

"Oh, his highness was also here."

His words sounded prickly somehow.

Does Heim-shi not get along well with the first prince?

Is something like that alright between the next king and the head of Shiga Eight Swords, I'm a bit worried now.

"Heim-dono, do you have a problem with the ability of our royal knights?"

Knight commander of the royal knight who were next to the prince to give commentaries stepped forward and glared at Heim-shi.

"Of course. If you think yourself as his majesty's shield, stop that child's play at once, and have them train until they vomit blood."

"Curses, are you saying that our knights is a child's play?"

The knight commander was enraged at Heim-shi's words.

"You know that best don't you?"

"--Cease this at once."

The first prince restrained Heim-shi's further provocation.

Heim-shi didn't seem like he intended to snarl at the first prince as he lightly bowed and closed his mouth.

"This is why upstarts are..."

The knight commander was being a poor loser and let that out.

"Don't hide behind your pedigree and lineage. The ones protecting his majesty is not you, but Julberg-dono and Reilas-dono--"

"--Heim. Did I not tell you to stop?"

Heim-shi smiled ferociously and then turned toward me.

"I see, so that's why it's Sir Pendragon huh."

I don't get what he's "I see"-ing about.

Perhaps, the first prince is trying to make me replace Julberg-shi?

"Hmph, no need to make up some useless plot. The Earl is my friend."

--Yet you've never called me by [Satou] name even once though.

"Well fine. I will have you show this training scenery you're boasting of."

After the first prince said that, we went toward the holy knight training ground.



"Fuhahahahahahaha, you're gonna die if that's all you got!"

"First division, put your spirit into it!"

"Second division, support with light magic."

"Third division, distract Ryouna-dono with a flash!"

"You shouldn't look away."

"GWOOOOOOOOOOO"

"Rebuild the light shield!"

"Bauen-dono's wind blade is coming!"

Holy knights train by fighting Shiga Eight Swords like in an actual combat.

"....■ Light Heal."

Other holy knights are healing the injured in one corner of the training ground.

Even though it has 'holy' on its name, there isn't a single priest in the Holy

Knights.

In exchange, it seems most of the members can use light magic.

They can do absurd training because they have healer members.

"At least you can back up your bragging."

The royal knight commander who heard the first prince's compliment had a sour look on his face.

"I'm honored for the praise, however, we have only begun to train this eagerly half a month ago."

The one who said that was the Reilas-shi the holy shield-user, not Heim-shi.

Half a month shouldn't be enough for them to get this coordinated, so it's probably this place's version of 'half a month'.

"And it's all thanks to Sir Pendragon. He taught us that even hero can be reached by a common man if you temper yourself. All of the holy knights are striving with you as their objective."

"Haa, I'm honored."

Reilas-shi bowed to me.

"To Master?"

"Satou as an objective?"

Liza and Lady Karina behind me tilt their heads in puzzlement while looking like they want to say something.

Zena-san didn't say anything, but she wryly smiled with cold sweat.

Un, I'll ask them what they want to say later.

"Sir Pendragon, this is a good chance as any, would you like to have a bout with me?"

Heim asked me while flaunting his magic sword.

That's the Magic Sword Heim I made as Echigoya Firm.

It has the ability to speed up and restore chips.

"Liza--"

"No, I'm asking for a match with your excellency the Earl, not with Viscount Kishresgalza."

Not Liza, but me?

"Kishresgalza sisters said this. You're the strongest."

Heim-shi draws his sword.

"We have high magic potion here. As long as you don't die, one or two loss limbs can be restored, no need to worry."

No no, I can't not worry.

Getting your limbs cut in a training is a no no.

Please do such violences with people who share the same interest.

"Satou-san, please do your best!"

Zena-san tightly grasped my hands and cheered.

"It'll be a cinch for Satou desuwa!"

Lady Karina who's equipped with demonic breasts said it like it was about herself.

Liza isn't saying anything, but her tail is beating the ground full of expectations.

"I'm counting on you, Sir Pendragon."

The first prince and his aides don't seem like they're stopping this.

Since Liza won against Julberg-shi, the leader of Shiga Eight Swords, and my title as Demon Lord Slayer had spread wide, there should be no problem putting a good fight against him here.

I'll aim for a draw after exchanging enough blows.

"Please take it easy on me."

Heim-shi's mouth twitched when he saw me receiving Fairy Sword from Zenasan.

"Are you going easy on me?"

--How'd he find out.

"What do you mean?"

"Viscount Kishresgalza told me. That her master's spear is above her."

Liza said that huh.

But it doesn't seem like he read my mind about going easy.

"Sir Pendragon, with a spear?"

"Come to think of it, I've never seen Sir Pendragon fighting with a sword."

"Then a spear was Sir Pendragon's main weapon all along!"

Heim-shi's misunderstanding spreads to the prince and the surrounding people.

Even Lady Karina muttered, "I didn't knew desuwa."

"Let me show you something that will left you wanting to use your serious weapon."

Heim-shi drew his magic sword and stood in the center of the training ground.

His opponent seems to be a 6-meter class golem.

"O Magic Edge, dwell in my sword. Magic sword Heim carved from my name. Bring about raiding speed faster than wind to me--"

I heard lines that reeked of chuunibyou from Heim-shi.

The surrounding holy knights and Lady Karina who heard that are getting terribly excited.

"<<Acceleration Catapult>>!"

Heim-shi got close to the golem at a speed equaling Pochi and Liza's Flickering Movement, and cut it in two with a slash that rode on his speed.

"Amazing."

"As expected desuwane."

"It's rough but quite powerful."

Zena-san, Lady Karina and Liza spoke.

Though, the general people's impressions are different--

"So this is the true strength of a Shiga Eight Sword--"

"As expected of Heim-dono!"

"That was tremendous...."

"Dear me, good thing he's an ally."

"Gununu"

--Such were their reactions.

"How was it, Sir Pendragon? Was this not enough for you to be wanting to use a spear?"

Heim-shi asked with a smile on his whole face.

Even though I'd love to see his face if I refused here, the people around would be booing me if I did that, thus I decided to read the air here.

"No. Just as you wish, I will be using a spear."

I said that and all, but I don't actually have that many spears for my use.

Holy Spear and Dragon Spear are bad choices, but he'd think that I'm making light of him if I use a steel spear--I looked at the Storage and found a handy looking one in the Experimental Folder, so I decided to use that.

I take out the spear from the Storage through the storage bag.

"A scarlet spear!"

"What an ominous spear."

"It must be a magic spear with some kind of story behind it."

The peanut gallery is too noisy....

This is a magic spear made from Hihirogane, Gae Bolg.

It's something I made per Arisa's request, "Something Gae Bolg-like", it has no special trait besides having good mana transmission.

Of course, it doesn't have the ability to always hit its target and perform a genocide like the original.

"It appears you have gotten serious."

Heim-shi drank a mana recovery potion and wiped his mouth with his hand.

That kind of wild gesture suits him well.

"Please don't be too hard on me."

"Hmph, sorry, but I'm not gonna hold back. I'll do my damndest to challenge 『Demon Lord Slayer』-dono."

Heim-shi showed a ferocious smile.

No really.

Let's have a less tense match shall we.

16-5. Various Conclusions

Satou here. I've always been bad at gambling ever since I was a child, maybe I just don't have a talent for it. I got invited to horse-racing and mahjong in my college days, but I still don't get their appeal even now. Perhaps you need the aptitude for it to enjoy gambling.



"Are you ready?"

"Yes."

I took up the magic spear made from Hihirogane, Gae Bolg, to answer Heimshi's query.

"Let us begin then."

We stand at the start lines in the center of the wide practice ground.

We're about 20 meter apart.

"O Magic Edge, dwell in my sword."

Red light from the magic edge comes up on Heim-shi's magic sword.

I've only noticed now that he has put Physical Reinforcement on himself in advance as his mana gauge has decreased.

"O Magic sword Heim carved from my name. Bring about raiding speed faster than wind to me--""

Looks like Heim-shi intends to use the [<<Acceleration Catapult>>] built in his magic sword right from the start.

I surrender the first strike to him and lower my magic spear--

--Eh?

Like a dropped frame, Heim-shi who had closed in right before me let out a lightning speed stab.

--Are you for real.

Looks like he had put himself in the Accelerated Catapult state beforehand.

I put my spear in front of me and flicked away the magic sword that drew a red trail.

Red sparks flew, and I saw Heim-shi's mouth moving at the opposite side.

"--Flash."

The zero-distance flash dyed my view white.

Looks like he used a light magic with deferred invocation that had been chanted prior.

Without waiting for the instant it needed for my view to return back, Heim-shi slashed back from the direction where I flicked his magic sword away earlier to conclude this fight.

I traced that movement from the air vibrations, and blocked the attack by kicking the bottom end of my magic spear.

--GYWEEEEEEEN.

Intense metallic sounds from the clash between a sword and a spear resounded.

Fierce red light dyed over my whitened view.

--<<Acceleration Catapult>>!"

Heim-shi tore the moment of silence with his shout.

The vibrations from the sole of his feet tell me about his charge timing.

--Flickering Movement."

I evaded while holding the speed down so it wouldn't become Ground Shrink.

My view that had instantly returned thanks to Light-intensity Adjustment skill showed that Heim-shi was fluttering in the air in a stabbing posture.

He twists his body in the air and pulls his sword back as if he's drawing a bow.

--Don't tell me.

Heim-shi collects his mana in his sword.

His stab that should have been out of range became a ball of red light that drew closer to me.

--Magic Edge Cannon.

Looks like he has acquired the Mystic Art that was once used by the top seat of Shiga Eight Swords, Julberg-shi.

To return the favor, I also shot a small Magic Edge Cannon out of the magic spear toward the approaching red light of Magic Edge Cannon that flew like a swallow, intercepting it.

I could hear Lady Karina and the others' cheers from beyond the roaring blast.

"After pulling through three surprise attacks, you even managed to block Magic Edge Cannon, my trump card, huh."

Heim-shi who had landed on the ground floated a manly smile.

He's probably using this chitchat to recover his mana and fix his breath.

"Monsters are more cunning in their surprise attacks you know. As for the Magic Edge Cannon, I was blessed with a good teacher who taught me about it."

Heim-shi took a glance at Liza when he heard that.

It's actually an elf teacher, not Liza, but since there's no need to amend him, I let the conversation continue.

"Show me the power of your magic spear. This time, I'll receive it all."

Heim-shi said a remark overflowing with sportsmanship.

Since He has [Counter] skill, it's dangerous for me to carelessly use a big move.

--Mainly in holding back kind of sense.

I lightly swing the spear and take a low stance.

"--Here I come."

I rushed forward with Flickering Movement and when I got to one third of the distance, I changed to maximum mode Flickering Movement that Liza and the others use.

And then I threw a thrust with the long spear from out of his range.

Heim-shi skilfully parried that with his great sword that should have been heavy and slow.

It's like he's wielding a rapier.

Looks like he had anticipated my Flickering Movement feint as all of my attacks, be it from right or left were all parried.

Even when I went around to his back and stabbed at it, he turned around and parried it.

As expected of number 2 of Shiga Eight Swords.

He might be even stronger than the top seat of Shiga Eight Swords, Julberg-

shi.

I opened our distance right when Heim-shi and the spectators were fixing their breaths.

"I expected no less from the one whom Kishresgalza sisters referred to be stronger than them."

Heim-shi is looking for the timing to close in while measuring the gap.

"But you haven't gotten serious even now do you?"

--How'd he find out.

I'm even using water magic [Sweating] and composite magic [<<Fake Hard Fight>>] for this.

Ideally, I'd like this fight to be a draw, but he will likely find out if I do it carelessly.

On the other hand, winning too easily will lower the brand of Shiga Eight Sword, while losing too easily will put a stain on Liza and the others' honor and

the title of Demon Lord Slayer--or even on Saga Empire's Hero Hayato's reputation.

It's quite a troublesome situation.

"Show me your true strength."

"Then allow me to respond to that with the Secret Arts that Hero Hayato instructed me."

Therefore, I plan to show the awesomeness of Demon Lord Slayer by pulverizing the practice ground with some awesome finishers while also constructing the narrative, "Heim-shi who could survive through that is awesome."

"Please don't die okay."

I clad magic spear Gae Bolg with Magic Edge after telling him my honest thought.

The spectators were surprised and yelled, "Earl Pendragon is using Magic Edge!"

Don't tell me, I had never used Magic Edge in public before this?

"Back at you, don't get too conceited and die on me."

I smile back at Heim-shi's words.

"Here it goes--<<Shining Blade>>"

I copied the light elemental finisher that Hero Hayato once showed.

Red shock waves released from Magic Spear Gae Bolg carved the practice ground with numerous line marks.

Originally they're in the form of slashes, but since I'm using a spear now, they look like rapid-fire beams this time.

Cloud of dust filled the practice ground.

The radar shows me Heim-shi's moves as he hides behind the dust.

I pull back my magic spear clad in Magic Edge to the limit to prepare for the

next finisher.

Heim-shi tore the dust cloud apart and showed himself up while shouldering a red shining magic sword.

"<<Shining Strike Rush>>"

"<<Dragonhorn Slasher>>"

Two finishers clashed.

I shifted the hitting angle as to not break magic sword Heim-shi I made, most of my Shining Strike Rush's power dispersed in the air.

Heim-shi's finisher that looked like it could even sever a dragon's horn tore through the Shining Strike Rush afterwave, smashing the practice ground behind me.

"HAAAAAAAAAAAAA!"

As he shouted out loud, Heim-shi's magic sword clashed with my magic spear, red shining particles dyed the surroundings.

The ground where we step on have caved-in like in a manga.

The spectators around us sent out loud shouts of joy.

Good good, it's going nicely.

"Here I go, Heim-dono!"

"Come, Pendragon! Show me your everything!"

I ignore Heim-shi who said something that reeked of BL and let out the next finisher.

"Dragon Buster"

It was a finisher that was once used by Liza in the fight against Floor Master.

16 thrusts assaulted Heim-shi as he parried them all.

Swept away by the momentum, my magic spear got stuck in the ground.

Heim-shi grinned.

His magic sword is clad in red light as he makes the same motion for the Dragonhorn Slasher.

This is probably the timing for Counter that he's been waiting for all along.

However--.

"Beyond Art. Magic Edge Explosion."

--I've also been waiting for this.

The red light that dwelt in the magic spear got sucked into the ground and Heim-shi who was just about to let out the Dragonhorn Slasher got swallowed in the explosion.

I used the art Liza once used to blast the [Floor Master] on the ground.

From the spectator's viewpoint, it would look like Heim-shi's finisher that

couldn't have been avoided was prevented by an art that was no different than an explosion.

"ITSNOTOVERYEEEEEEEEEEEEET!"

--Uwaa, seriously?

Heim-shi who was bloody all over charged in without caring about his defense.

No no, you're really gonna die you know?

My consciousness was robbed by my hand as I was cautious not to kill him.

However, his attack reached me in that moment.

His magic sword grazed my cheek, and engraved a wound.

The wound disappeared instantly by my Self-Healing skill, but it felt like I got to see the pride of Shiga Eight Swords, the guardian of the kingdom.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka.com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Sir Pendragon, you have shown me your true strength."

Heim-shi who was about to die has already recovered enough to walk with the healing of magicians that were on standby at the practice ground.

Behind him, huge golems have been made to line up by earth magicians at the practice ground as Lady Karin and Shiga Eight Sword Miss Ryouna the [Mower] fight there.

Looks like they had agreed to have a fight when we were fighting.

And it seems Reilas-dono is going to fight Zena-san afterward.

Liza declined to have a match because, "Master has not given me his permission."

Since the level difference is too great, it would have ended one-sidedly so her judgment is proper.

"--It's my complete defeat."

"No, it's my lost. I only managed to block Heim-shi's last attack by luck."

There's no point in my effort to make the match close to no count if he says [Complete defeat].

Besides if I carelessly recognize his defeat, I might get forced to join Shiga Eight Swords.

"I think a draw is fine--"

First prince Soltrick who could read the mood offered a nice trade off.

"--Both of you were splendid. I will have your rewards delivered later. Keep striving to polish your superior skill for the sake of Shiga Kingdom."

Heim-shi and I gratefully accepted it like retainers would.

"Match end! The winner, Ryouna-dono!"

Oops, looks like Lady Karina had lost while we were talking.

Both of them are the type that fight by instinct, but Miss Ryouna who's more experienced in interpersonal combat seems to have the upper hand in tactics.

Lady Karina also often fought with Pochi and Tama, but since the practices were in assumption that she'd fight against monsters, she never had the chance of learning the in-depth of interpersonal combat.

"Relief squad! My shoulders and ribs are broken! Help me with the healing."

Miss Ryouna who was wounded all over called the knights specializing in healing.

"I couldn't win."

"Good work."

I hand over a cold wet towel to the dejected Lady Karina.

By the way, there's not even a scratch on Lady Karina who had Raka

protecting her.

Apparently she lost because she got exploited by her opponent and fainted.

"Karina-sama, your opponent was a Shiga Eight Swords after all. It's only natural to lose."

Zena-san consoled Lady Karina.

"That's not an excuse desuwa. Zena-san, you have to win okay."

"It's alright. I'm sure Zena-sama will win if she fights calmly."

"Y-yes. I'll do my best."

Lady Karina and Liza cheer for Zena-san.



"--Is that allowed?"

"Yes, Master. When she was challenged, Zena-sama asked Reilas-dono if he didn't mind that she was maining magic, this is the answer to that."

The scene before us is that of Zena-san flying in mid-air as she dropped [Air Hammers] down in a one-sided battle.

At first, Reilas-shi counter attacked by shooting light magic, but since Zena-san completely blocked it with [<<Heavy Air Wall>>], he resorted to be in the defensive with his holy shield.

Additionally, Zena-san who was able to quickly cast her magic interrupted Reilas-shi when he tried to cast mid-level magic that could break through her Heavy Air Wall.

This match will have ended in an instant were Zena-san to use an advanced level wind magic, but it seems the kind Zena-san won't use it in fear of seriously injuring Reilas-shi.

『--Her altitude is decreasing.』

"It's true desuwa."

Just as Raka said, Zena-san's altitude has decreased.

It's difficult to control the [Fly] magic she's using, her control might have loosened after continuously firing attack magic.

I'd like to give her an instruction, but giving advices in the middle of a match is prohibited.

"--Master."

I look back to the ground from Liza's call.

Reilas-shi purges his heavy equipment and runs up to her at a tremendous speed.

"Rising Blade."

He threw his holy shield below Zena-san and let out a finisher with the magic sword in his other hand.

Reilas-shi stacked the forces from Flickering Movement, jumping skills and upward slashing type of finisher to approach Zena-san in mid-air.

"■■■■ Wind Shield"

Zena-san used a quick-to-chant wind spell in a hurry.

Reilas-shi's magic sword cut up the wind shield.

"Elementary level magic won't--"

Someone muttered that.

But that's a misunderstanding.

Zena-san isn't trying to block Reilas-shi's finisher.

It's to push back Reilas-dono with the dregs from the Wind Shield and propel herself to move in the air.

And, additionally--

"Expulsion."

"NUOOOOOOO"

--The storm released from the wind that surrounded her body beat Reilas-shi down toward the ground.

Reilas-shi's magic sword cuts off the storm, but then come Zena-san's insurance blow.

"....■■■ Fallen Hammer"

Zena-san's heavy wind burst apart Reilas-dono who had been thrown off balance, he hit the ground without affording to break the fall.

It wouldn't be strange for an ordinary person to die from it, but as expected of Shiga Eight Swords.

He swiftly springs up and jumps toward the holy shield nearby.

The moment his hand was about to reach the holy shield, his back was struck by Zena-san who had gained speed from gravity.

"Guha--"

"■■■■ Air Hold!"

The Air Hold casted with shortened chant binds down Reilas-shi, his neck is then met with the short sword that Zena-san drew out.

"The winner! Zena Marientail!"

At the unexpected victory, the surrounding people let out an ear-splitting excited cheering.

"Splendidly done. Zena-dono."

"Thank you very much, Reilas-sama."

Zena-san replied Reilas-shi's praise while looking embarrassed and they exchanged handshakes in honor of the good fight.

The umpire didn't notice the fact that Reilas-shi's dominant had resisted Zena-san's Air Hold right right before the conclusion, and if the umpire didn't make a hasty conclusion, it was possible for him to counterattack Zena-san with the

hand that was holding the magic sword.

However, he accepted the umpire's decision and didn't attempt to take a simultaneous hit.

No wonder he was entrusted to take care of that unmanageable third prince Sharlick.



--Oh?

A gentleman wearing butler attire ran up to the practice ground.

Looks like he's looking for someone.

Did anything happen?

When I was observing the situation, that gentleman ran up to one of the first prince's followers and whispered something into his ears.

"Royal Capital's Air Defense Corps--"

"What, are you sure about that?"

"--By your will."

I couldn't hear the important part due to the clamor, but then a pale faced follower noble ran up to me.

"Earl Pendragon, forgive me about this, but could you let me off the bet from the other day?"

"I don't--"

"What's wrong? Did your gamble-hating wife put you on a short leash?"

When I was going to say 'I don't mind', another noble interrupted.

The follower noble's face became even paler.

Then another noble cut in.

He's sweating all over, wonder if he's feeling all right.

"I-I would also like to take off my bet with you sire. However, it would be rude to get off it just like that. Thus I will offer this heirloom sword as an apology."

"You too, what's happening here."

"Eyy, move out. I'm talking with Earl Pendragon now."

The sweating noble and the pale noble shoved the puzzled gentleman noble aside and edged up on me.

How do I say this, their faces look really serious it's scary.

"It will do no good to your reputation if we do this in such a place--"

When I suggested them to talk about it later at the salon, they got even more flustered.

"N-no, it's nothing important enough to warrant changing places."

"I-I beg of you, please accept this sword."

--Something's not right.

Thinking that, I tried searching the map.

Gotcha.

Holy Mobile Armor.

Apparently, nobles who have obtained info about the discovery of Holy Mobile Armor are trying to take off their bets before it's announced.

I take note of the two nobles who make the offer.

These two's houses most likely have excellent information network.

"What are you guys hiding."

The puzzled looking first prince asked the two nobles.

It does make you doubt something when they're doing it so openly like this doesn't it.

『Satou-dono, a wyvern is approaching from west-southwest.』

"Thank you, Raka."

I said my thanks to Raka.

The one coming here is a wyvern from capital Air Defense Corps, so everything's fine.

Then a wyvern quickly came into the view, the first prince's follower nobles clamored.

They should have gotten used to wyverns if they live in the capital, but since the wyverns don't usually fly above the capital, maybe people who aren't really connected to the military don't know about them.

"So noisy, quiet down."

"Y-Your highness! That's!"

"Do not fret! Isn't that a wyvern of the capital's Air Defense Corps!"

The followers who got scolded by the prince regained their composure.

"Aaaaa, Earl Pendragon, I beseech you."

"P-please, for goodness's sake--"

The sweating noble and the pale noble entreated me as they were about to grab my clothes.

The other nobles seemed anxious to see them as they began to look at each others and exchanged words in whispers.

"Holy Mobile Armor! The Holy Mobile Armor has been found at the western Magic Sealing Ravine!"

A soldier who got off of the wyvern shouted.

"I see, so that's what happening--"

In contrast to the prince who got it, the sweating noble and the pale noble broke down in despair.

The other nobles also exchanged glances with pale faces.

The nobles' line of sights are gathered to me as if they're begging me.

Not sure what you want me to do by doing that.

I personally find no value in the things they bet, but I can't exactly say, "the bet doesn't count" either.

If I did that, troublesome people would come one after another to make unreasonable bets with me.

Now then, the smart thing to do here is to look for a middle ground.

I sure would love to have Arisa's advice in times like this.

16-6. Holy Shell Mobile Armor (1)

Satou here. I kinda like special TV programmes that cover treasure hunts for Tokugawa's buried treasures. That the hunt would end up in failure was obvious since news about it didn't turn up on the headline, but even so, I still like to watch them.



"Your Highness, could I have a moment of your time?"

On the way to the ceremony to celebrate the new airship's completion, I went to the first prince to consult about the bet.

I have worked out the content of the consultation together with Arisa and Hikaru through space magic [Telephone] on my way here.

Incidentally, the figures of nobles who lost their bet clinging on me incurred the wrath of the first prince and they were ordered to cool off their heads elsewhere.

It seems they're currently having strategy meetings among their own small factions.

Thus, the only people near the first prince are his guards and me, convenient for holding a private talk.

"Is it about the bet?"

The first prince took a half step forward before stopping and turned around.

"Yes--"

"I will not allow it if you're asking the bet to be annuled."

The first prince interrupted my reply.

"No, that is not what I have in mind."

When I shook my head, the first prince looked like he found it unexpected.

Looks like he thought that I was hesitating to say, "I'd like to annul the bet."

"After receiving the betting prizes, I would like to present them to your

highness."

"Hmph, you're the only person who dares to force a chore on me without a hint of hesitation."

The first prince who saw through my real intention had a sarcastic smile on his face.

Looks like he had assessed that I was asking him, "Afterward, please grant them back to their original owners as a reward from your highness."

It'd be bad if we had a misunderstanding so I told him something to that effect, and the prince consented even while looking reluctant.

"If those prizes are to be granted as a reward, you're saying that they have to work hard to earn it, no?"

I assented to the prince's question.

It's a bit annoying, but it should be advantageous for the first prince too since he will be showing off his generosity while also working his followers hard.

"Good grief, Sir Pendragon, you should familiarize yourself more on the greediness of an average noble."

"--Greediness, is it?"

"Indeed. Do not flaunt enticing treasures within a hand reach of children."

Looks like he's implying about not only the diamond key, but also my magic and ability.

"Yes, I will strive to improve myself on that."

"--You do just that."

After saying that, the first prince continues his step forward.

My Attentive Ears skill picked up him muttering, "I don't want to worry about receding hairlines while I'm still young", but I managed to ignore it with the help of Poker Face-sensei (skill).

I'll make sure to send him some seaweed dishes and hair regenerating shampoo and conditioner later.



"These are all the ground support functions of airship Geldever."

The Chief of Royal Airship Arsenal was having a fervent speech on the stage during the ceremony to celebrate the new airship.

The new airship that was choke full of facilities to deal with monster stampedes was quite something, but the people seemed like they had their minds elsewhere, so the chief's explanation felt like it was being ignored.

There's no mistaking that it's due to the rumor about Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

Due to the poor reception of the audience, the chief gritted his teeth while looking like he wanted to, "Gununu."

It might be also because test the fire of magic artillery installed around the royal capital got delayed to another day.

I was also a bit disappointed since I had some interest in the [Magic Artillery] discovered in a ruin in a territory under direct control of the king.

"I can see it!"

Lady Karina who was with me shouted out loud while pointing at the southwest sky.

Lured by her voice, the spectators look at the direction she pointed.

"So that's the Holy Shell Mobile Armor--"

Relying on Farsight skill, I gaze at a huge armor tied onto two large-scale airships in the horizon.

It's bigger than I thought.

I imagined it to be human-sized since the story said that Hikaru wore it, but it looks more like a robot that's almost as big as Odaiba.

"....That's, General."

I heard Hikaru, who was beside the king, muttered.

True, the AR shows [Holy Shell Mobile Armor: General].

Is it just my imagination or Hikaru doesn't look happy somehow.

Contrary to the king and the prime minister who are getting excited as they look up at the coming Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

Hikaru left the two and walked outside the ceremony hall.

"What's the matter, Hikaru."

"Ah, Ichirou-nii."

When I followed Hikaru and called out to her, she turned around with a face that was about to cry and smiled lonesomely.

"That's, you know... it's a remain."

Hikaru muttered weakly.

Come to think of it, it's called [Holy Shell] Mobile Armor.

<TLN: 'Shell' can also be read 'corpse'.>

"They were the last survivors of an old old giant race whose sole wish was to eradicate demons, they fought as the vanguards of Furu Empire."

Hikaru who had fought together with them spoke.

"But you see, they couldn't fulfill that wish."

I couldn't see Hikaru's expression as she was looking down.

"Furu Empire's emperor granted them the last request they uttered in their dying breath--"

--We want to keep fighting demons even after we have turned into a corpse.

So the Giants wished.

"A Holy Shell Mobile Armor was strong enough to put up a good fight against a true dragon if it was only for a short while."

Hikaru narrated weakly.

Fragments of 『Dragonflame Orb』 they got from Dragon God in exchange of a vast amount of crimson treasures and other treasury, acted as the heart of Holy Shell Mobile Armor, demonstrating a far greater output than any conventional magic reactor.

If a Holy Shell Mobile Armor was to move at full power, the humans inside would die from the inertia so they would wear a three-meter tall mobile armor or a powered suit called invincible armor before getting in.

Additionally, that Dragonflame Orb was used at the final stage of the war between Furu Empire and Orc Empire, creating a vast desert to the west of Labyrinth City.

"And then I think it was after I befriended Ten-chan? I found these kids buried in a ruin of Furu Empire's arsenal."

According to Hikaru, there were four [Holy Shell Mobile Armors] and only [General] and [Dynast] remained at the end of the war.

The magic specialized type that Hikaru used, [Sage], got seriously damaged in the fight against the Wild Boar King.

The last one, [Saint], had its central part run amok right before the final battle

and was destroyed along with the orc army.

"I originally wanted to let them sleep in their graves once the war was over, but I was an awful king you see. I couldn't manage to revive the kingdom without the help of those kids."

I hold Hikaru in my chest as she forced a smile while shedding tears.

"And you see, Sharlick-kun promised me this when he became the king. He will keep the kingdom peaceful during his rule and let those kids sleep in a place no one can find he said."

"Then, now I will promise you this--"

I pat the sobbing Hikaru's hair.

"--I will let them sleep in a place that absolutely no one could find."

First of all, I will make a fake with the same capability as the Holy Shell Mobile Armor to the limit of Disguise skill.

Although, the king and the prime minister will definitely return the Holy Shell Mobile Armor back to its grave asap if only Hikaru tells them what she feels.

But if we did that, some adventurers with reckless abandon to life and dilettantes would likely show up to find the [Absolutely Indiscoverable] Holy Shell Mobile Armor.



"Guilty?"

"Ah hey Mito, what happened?"

"Aa, it's, well."

Arisa and Mia who had gone back from their special lecture greeted us when I returned to the Solitary Island Palace while lending my shoulder to Hikaru.

Apparently, princess Sistina who should have been with them is secluding herself in the forbidden library because the content of the lecture caught her interest.

I told what I heard earlier to Arisa and Mia after letting Mito sleep.

"Hmm, Mito-tan's been through a lot too~"

"Nn, seasoned."

Arisa gazes at Mito's room worryingly despite her light tone.

"So then, what do you plan to do Master?"

"Hm? I'm thinking of exchanging the armor with a fake that no one can notice and then bury him in a place no one can find."

Of course, I'll be doing that after I've spoken with the king.

"Un, I think that's a good idea."

"Could Satou-san really do that?"

Zena-san, a person with common sense, asked beside the nodding Arisa.

"Nope, not right away. It'll be after I've scanned the structures of Holy Shell Mobile Armor."

People from Royal Research Institute have begun their investigation in one of the royal castle's hangars you see.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka.com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"--Ancestor King-sama said that?"

"What have we done."

I visited the king's room as Nanashi, which I hadn't become in a long while, and told them about what Hikaru told me earlier.

"N-no... This retainer only wished to please his king...."

Marquis Kelten who were in the room groaned while falling prostrate on the ground.

Looks like he's deeply regretting that his surprise present he thought would please his lord ended up saddening her instead.

"It cannot be helped. The circumstances surrounding that weren't handed down were they?"

After all, they even got the mobile armor worn in order to pilot the Holy Shell Mobile Armor mixed up with the real thing.

"I will exchange it with a fake later. Tell me about the place you found it. There should be another Holy Armor sleeping there according to Mito."

"No, Nanashi-sama. The only Holy Shell Mobile Armor we found in the ruin was the one we brought here."

Marquis Kelten answered my question.

"Do you swear?"

"Yes I swear on ancestor king-sama, the royalty, and the honor of Kelten Marquisdom."

Marquis Kelten promptly replied to my question.

Fumu, that means, even after retrieving Holy Shell Mobile Armor [General], I've still got to find the other armor--which is called [Dynast] it seems.

"Very well, I believe you."

Since marquis Kelten was looking at me anxiously, I gave him my assent.

I sure am acting high and mighty here.

Feels like I'll get caught up in hubris if I'm not careful.

Additionally, the king immediately give me the permission to change the armor with a fake, so I quickly infiltrated the hangar and scanned the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

The source of power, its reactor seemed to be a kind of Philosopher's Stone Reactor of unknown type so I'm thinking of making one that only looks exactly the same outwardly.

For the time being, the king has ordered to stop the investigation of the magic artillery and the reactor inside.



"--On top of having a large scale Mana Reactor inside, it's also able to manufacture and command 100 giant golems all at once huh...."

I was astonished at the results of the scan.

It far outclassed magic weaponry in present days.

Ancient Furu Empire sure had some amazing technology up their sleeves.

"Satou."

Princess Sistina knocked and entered the room.

"I've looked up the documents pertaining magic artillery you asked."

"Thank you very much."

She brought three documents from the forbidden library in the royal castle.

Unfortunately they weren't about the technical sides of magic artillery, but more about their destructive power and history.

"It seems Furu Empire repaired artillery they excavated in a ruin of Lalakie civilization and made use of them."

Princess Sistina told me as she turned the pages.

Lalakie huh.... It crossed 20,000 years of time and was revived during the Divine Punishment, but it has sunk back into the depth of oceans now.

The half-ghost and homonculus sisters-in-law I saved back then should be acting as gravekeepers if I'm not mistaken.

After looking around the map for a bit, I found out that wreckages of magic artillery are sleeping not only in Lalakie, but also in the oceanic state of magic kingdom Lalagi that's related to Lalakie, in the territorial waters of Ishlalie, and even in the Sea Dragon Archipelago at the coastal waters of Boruenan.

Few survived getting submerged in the sea for 20,000 years, only an ancient ship made of adamantite sunk in the Sea Dragon Archipelago remained.

"Sa-Satou, that's?"

When I used space magic [Item Pull (Aport)] to take a magic artillery from the ancient ship here, princess Sistina was shocked for some reason.

She probably wants to know what I fetched since I relatively often took things out of Storage in front of her.

"It's a small magic cannon installed in a sunken ship from the era of Lalakie Dynasty."

Many types were present, but the ones installed in the Holy Shell Mobile Armor were of this type, so I chose this one.

"I'll be heading off to the studio."

"Yes, take care."

I parted ways with princess Sistina who sounded tired somehow and went to make a fake Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

It should be done by tomorrow morning if I just work hard here.

16-7. Holy Shell Mobile Armor (2)

Satou here. There are times when a friend I know well surprised me with unexpected knowledge while we were talking about some geeky things. Obviously, someone's life is always going even while you're not aware of it isn't it.



"--Goodbye, General."

Hikaru reluctantly parted with a huge gravestone.

I went with Hikaru to the hometown of Giants along with Holy Shell Mobile Armor remains.

For the sake of burying the Holy Shell Mobile Armor I had exchanged with a fake this morning.

I have put up a barrier here with my magic, but someone might discover the grave someday with just that alone, thus, I have enlisted the help of an expert.

"Can I start now?"

Yuika No.3, the first generation goblin princess called out to Hikaru.

No.3 is a way to indicate the first generation goblin princess as she has multiple personalities.

"I'm sorry, Foirnis."

"Don't worry about it, Yamato. Granting the wish of one of the few 『Tennis X Hero』 comrades I have is no trouble."

Foirnis is the chuunibyou name of Yuika No.3.

Apparently these two are fans of the same shoujo manga.

After that exchange, Yuika No.3 closes down the barrier that holds the grave of Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

"I have make it so visible ray can pass through the barrier, to let the scenery of his hometown be seen."

Yuika No.3 said that and demonstrated how the tombstone before us couldn't be touched.

"You can freely visit the grave, however, the Dragonflame Orb used as his core is something that the Seven Gods desire, it is dangerous. It isn't something you should go around telling people about."

Dragonflame Orb was an artifact that created the great desert to the west of labyrinth city wasn't it.

I don't think there's anyone who can break through a barrier that Yuika created with her Unique Skill, but it might catch the interest of the gods or someone whose Unique Skill could tear through barriers, it's probably safer to keep this from everyone.

"Un, I'll keep it a secret from everyone."

"Yes, you should do that."

Yuika No.3 nodded at Hikaru.

"Satou, could you make flowers bloom around this place?"

"Sure thing."

I answered Hikaru's request and made multi-colored flowers bloom in the wasteland-like graveyard.

We left the place after watching the scenery with Hikaru for a while.

I sent Hikaru back to the solitary island palace and Yuika to her retreat in Selbira labyrinth's lower layer.

As thanks for her trouble this time, in addition to the usual surface dishes, I also gave her a magic tool to convert mana into 100-volt AC power along with home appliances, and also cup ramens and bags of sweets I got from a parallel world earth.

After being frolic at those nostalgic items for a while, Yuika No.3 speaks to me in a serious tone.

"Satou, the one earlier was 『General』 wasn't it?"

"Yes, Yamato said so."

I confirmed Yuika No.3's query.

"Was 『Dynast』 not with him?"

"Apparently they only found 『General』 during the exploration this time."

He was the only one in the ruin according to the explorers Marquis Kelten hired.

"Is there any problem with 『Dynast』?"

"Umu, that one is a bit dangerous. A long time ago, the idiots from Furu Empire excavated a Divine Punishment Artillery installed in Lalakie Dynasty's 『Floating Castle』 you see, it could only shoot once at a time, but one shot of it had enough power to cut through a thick adamantite alloy-made armor."

Hohou, that's amazing.

Isn't that stronger than my monomorphic laser?

"It cannot be compared to something like Magic Artillery, so if your opponent were to use him, do not hesitate to destroy it. It's worrying since you have a soft side on you."

"Thank you Yuika."

I easily can defend myself if it's only against a converged laser shot, but since Yuika No.3 gave the advice out of worry about my wellbeing, I gave her my thanks.

"Hmph, it's because the current Yuika would be sad if you were to hurt badly."

Yuika No.3 averted her gaze with blushed cheeks as she said that.

I smiled back at Yuika No.3 when she bashfully told me, "If you've got no more business here, go home", and left her retreat to visit my acquaintances in the labyrinth's lower layer for the first time in a while.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka.com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"GAHAHAHA! Run run! I'll run ya over if ya stop!"

The one riding on top of a tank that let out kyura kyura noise while laughing loudly was Armor the [Iron Stalker], Takeru.

He's a former reincarnated person, and an undead now.

"Keep at it~ Multi-legged Mushroom, Mash-san is waiting for you once you're done with Armor's tank~"

Cheering from the center of a huge open space is a blue-skinned greater vampire--Semeri the vampire princess.

"Kuh, dammit, I'll definitely make you cry someday!"

At the end of her line of sight, is the former artificial demon lord, native hero Shin boy who's getting chased by Armor's tank while cursing.

He was summoned as a commoner into this world in a hero summoning experiment at Rumooku Kingdom incited by Weasel Empire's engineers.

And then, he was given a Unique Skill through an artifact called Demon Lord Orb by his father who got reincarnated into this world by chance, became an artificial demon lord and almost destroyed Shiga Kingdom's capital, but it was all in the past.

He's finished his rehabilitation now and is steadily raising his level with Armor and vampire princess Semeri's help.

Although it's partly because of Hero title, these two teachers are really merciless.

Feels like I often see Shin in precarious situations, perhaps it's cause they think they could just revive him as a vampire even if he died.

"Kuro!"

As I was approaching while thinking that, Semeri who noticed me waved her hands buzzingly.

"What's up Kuro. Did something happen?"

"Naw, I had some business with Yuika so I thought I'd stop by to see how Shin is doing."

Shin boy is breathing roughly on the ground, unable to hold a conversation.

I took out the same home appliances and food I gave Yuika inside Armor's residence.

"Don't tell me, you managed to teleport between worlds?"

"Yeah, it needs a stupidly huge amount of mana equaling hero summoning so I can't use it thoughtlessly though."

I told the truth to Armor.

"Shin, do you want to go back to your former world?"

"nfo (no), nfo inferesfed (not interested)."

Shin boy waved his head aside while gulping down instant yakisoba Piyong.

Come to think of it, Aoi and Yui at Echigoya Firm also didn't wish to return, are these young ones just not interested in a peaceful earth?

"Oh right, Armor. Do you know about Holy Shell Mobile Armor?"

"Huhn? I dunno no armor with exaggerated names like that--or maybe ya mean a kind of Power Suit Golem Armor I made?"

I asked Armor about Dynast since he was an engineer of Furu Empire, but the

mobile armor seemed to be created after his era, I didn't get a favorable answer.

"How do you use this thing?"

"Uwaaa, stop it Semerii! Don't break the microwave's door!"

Armor who saw Semeri fiddling with microwave oven with child's curiosity stopped her in a hurry.

They look like they're having fun.

After having some pleasant chats with these my-pace bunch, I went toward the castle of a former reincarnated Japanese, [King Mummy] Tetsuo--Aka Corpse.



"Meeting the Gods to talk with them huh...."

Corpse muttered as if reminiscing the past.

"Yes, I'd like to understand what the gods want, so a tragedy like Weasel Empire won't repeat ever again."

He once threatened the gods with nuclear weapons, so I came here to ask for his opinion.

"It'll be faster if you let them advent with 『Invoke Deity』 if you're willing to break a miko--"

"I will not do that."

I'm not gonna expose Sera and Lily to danger to do that.

Apparently I can use it myself if I level Holy Magic skill up to 10 anyway.

"--Don't even think about using it yourself you hear me?"

As if reading my thought, Corpse warned me.

"It goes without saying that you risk getting your body taken over by the god that descended, but more than that, there's a high chance of your Soul Vessel

breaking."

Reincarnated people and heroes whose Soul Vessels have been occupied by Unique Skills--fragment of gods, are at higher risk than an ordinary miko.

--That was dangerous.

Getting ahead of myself and using it without thinking would have been bad.

"But communicating with 'em is difficult y'know?"

"Really?"

"Yeah, dunno if it's because they use miko as an intermediary on top of the existence of dimensional distortions between God's Realm and this world, or because god's thought process differs from that of human, it's like their words are mixed with fragmentary images, it's hard to understand those guys."

Come to think of it, that sounds similar to the Divine Punishment announcement.

"If possible I'm thinking of going to the God's Realm and having a face-to-face talk with them though--"

"Going to the God's Realm huh? Ya sure came up with something crazy."

Corpse muttered in astonishment while slurping instant ramen.

Just where does it go inside a mummy body I wonder.

"Ain't the high elves know more about that kinda thing?"

"Unfortunately, no one among the high elves has ever set foot into the God's Realm in this world."

I've tried asking Demi-God Mode Aze-san and other high elves, but there is no one among the living high elves who has gone to the God's Realm.

They only have a vague memory about the God's Realm where Creator God existed before it arrived here along with World Trees and other gods.

The reason is probably because high elves exist for the purpose of becoming god's spouse--and that is only as a substitute for when a god cannot find another god to be their partner.

Calling in a high elf is probably a disgraceful pride-breaking act for a god.

Good grief, what a loathsome story that is--.

"The only information I have are from God Parion and hero's tale in picture books, I thought Corpse would know something."

"Sorry but I dunno--"

Corpse stopped halfway through.

"--No wait, I once heard a story about first generation hero surpassing a trial imposed by Parion and getting invited to God's Palace."

The same thing is also written in the documents I have regarding first generation hero that Marquis Muno wrote.

Marquis Muno hypothesized that the palace might be referring to the temple on the [Hero's Hill] located in the outskirts of Saga Empire's old capital.

"Well, it was a hearsay story, so take it with a grain of salt."

I thanked Corpse for the important information regardless whether it's true or

not.

Afterward, vampire's progenitor Ban and my acquaintances in the labyrinth's lower layer gathered here while I was talking about Lalakie dynasty with Corpse, so we ended up having a banquet.

The cabbage rolls shimmered in tomato soup made from tomatoes that Yuika successfully cultivated were quite delicious, so I'm gonna treat the girls in the solitary island palace with the same dish once I get back.

Now then, it's about time to go to Tenion Temple in the duchy capital and acquire the mean to communicate with the gods.

16-8. Ringrande's Homecoming

Satou here. I always came back to my parents' home for obon and new year's day in my college days, but that got less and less often the moment I became a working adult.

It's not because I didn't like getting pestered about when is the wedding or getting offered to go to a marriage interview by obliging relatives. I'm telling the truth you know?



"Satou, sorry but could you please escort me back to Duchy Capital?"

"Yes, I wouldn't mind."

When I was on my way back from the castle after seeing the fake Holy Shell Mobile Armor, Lady Ringrande whom I came across in a hallway asked me that.

I was just thinking of going back to the duchy capital, so it's just right.

I had promised to attend to a tea party and a banquet so we couldn't go right

away, we departed to the duchy capital on the Tourism Ministry airship the next morning.

"Satou-sama, so this is Satou-sama's personal airship."

For some reason there was another individual attached to Lady Ringrande.

It's miss Ririna, the daughter of Gururian's viceroy, who's also attending the royal academy.

"No, it doesn't belong to me as it's the Tourism Ministry's facility."

Of course, the fuel for the magic furnace, magic cores, comes from my own expense.

"Sorry about this, Satou."

Lady Ringrande said that as she boarded the ship after carrying in the Flying Wooden Horse.

"If you really feel sorry then you can just fly there with that Flying Wooden Horse."

The one who reproached Lady Ringrande with thorny words was her little sister of the same mother, Sera.

She's the the only one among Solitary Island Palace members who's going along with me this time as the other girls seem to have business in the royal capital here.

Additionally, Lady Karina is going to act as a guide in lady Soruna's capital tour.



"Ehehe, Satou-sama."

Miss Ririna went and clung on me when the airship shifted into level flight.

Looks like she's gotten attached to me.

"Ririna-san, hugging a gentleman's arm who is not your fiance is shameless for a lady."

Sera she stepped in while smiling and peeled Miss Ririna off me.

"Ara? Sera, are you being jealous of a kid?"

Lady Ringrande teased her little sister while grinning.

"I'm not jealous! I'm just guiding her how to act like a lady."

"Hmmm, guiding huh--"

Lady Ringrande gleefully watches Sera who's desperately insisting her official stance.

Lady Ringrande's eyes met mine while she was talking, they shined like that of a cat who found its prey.

"--Ey!"

Lady Ringrande hugs my head with a mischievous look.

The ample breast cushion deformed on my chest, transmitting captivating sensation.

"Aa!"

"Eeh?"

Sera shouted when she saw that, Miss Ririna also sounded surprised.

"Onee-sama! You're shameless!"

Lady Ringrande gleefully looks at the flaring Sera.

"Ara? Grandfather-sama told me to marry Satou you know? That means we're like fiance and fiancée now right?"

Looks like lady Ringrande who's crazy about her little sister can't help herself teasing Sera.

"Sa-Satou-sama! Is it true that you're engaged to Ringrande-sama?"

"No no, it was just a joke someone said when we were out drinking."

Miss Ririna was asking me with a desperate look, so I told her the truth.

Lady Ringrande is like an idol in Oyugock Dukedom, she's probably a fan of her too.

And then--.

The small airship equipped with the latest cruising engine devised by Prof. Jahad only took half the time needed for a conventional airship to reach the duchy capital.

I ended up having to watch endless quarrels or rather, teasing, between sisters, in the whole duration of the flight though, it was a bit troublesome.

That ascetic journey finally came to an end and the airship arrived at the duchy capital to meet a grand reception sponsored by Sera's and Lady Ringrande's father, who is also the next duke.

The personnels were a bit lacking since the duke and the two glutton nobles weren't present, but I got to meet Earl Wolgock who took care of us when we first arrived at the duchy capital back then for the first time in a long while.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka.com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"It has been awhile Satou-san."

"Nice to meet you again, Head Miko--No, Miko Lily."

Sera and I met with the former head-miko, now a miko apprentice little girl, Lily in Tenion Temple's parlor.

After telling each other how we were doing and the matter about demon lord slayer, I got into the point.

"--Meeting with Gods?"

"Yes, I'd like to know what the gods want from humans."

Lily and Sera matched eyes.

"Haven't you heard about Sera asking the same question to God Tenion during an oracle?"

"Yes, I have."

It was during the divine punishment back then.

That oracle was--.

『Gods wish for pious prayers from people and gratitudes for their joyous life.』

--like that.

But was that really all there is to it?

"Do you not believe it?"

"I believe in Lily-sama and Sera-san, but it's hard to believe that's what the gods want."

Lily and Sera looked troubled to hear my reply.

"I feel it in my journey and the Weasel Empire, unreasonableness that could be said verging on god's irrationality, I think it's in contrast to wanting prayers and gratitudes."

Even if I were to yield 100 steps and regard what was said earlier to be God Tenion's true intention, there is still a risk of an even bigger tragedy happening as long as I don't know what the [Gods] want.

"Therefore, you're thinking of meeting them?"

"Yes."

I gave my affirmation to Lily.

"Since that's what you wish for, I'd love to have it granted it, but--"

According to Lily, miko's oracle is very complex as it's like piles of images, words and meaning cobbled together, only the thing that a miko can decipher can be conveyed.

"If you want to talk with a god yourself, then there is no choice but to use 『Invoke Deity』 to let a god advent into my body."

"No, the compensation for that magic is much too big."

"If it's for you and this world's sake, I don't mind giving up this soul of mine you know?"

I shake my head to answer Lily.

"Is there no other way?"

"Right..."

Lily contemplates with her hand on her cheek.

"Maybe with the method the ancient king used to have a dialog with a God--"

I was led by Lily to a room where the banned books of Tenion Tempel were stored.

"Here it is--looks like it's quite a difficult ceremony."

Lily muttered while looking over a banned book.

"Looks like we need some very special articles, although they're fundamentally the same with the ones for oracle ceremony."

"What kind of articles are they?"

"World Tree Sap, World Tree Leaf, and Philosopher's Stone--they might be everywhere during the era of ancient king, but every one of them isn't something you can get hold of easily."

Lily looks up at me with a profound look on her face.

"I have those with me here."

"Ufufu, you really are amazing."

Lily took the material while smiling broadly.

She turns her gaze to Sera while putting them on a table.

"The ceremony needs Prayer magic you see. If Sera can recite it, can I leave it to you?"

"I have never tried using the magic, but I believe I can do it."

"If you aren't sure, I don't mind using it myself, but--"

Lily whispered something to Sera with a mischievous look on her face.

I turned off the Attentive Ears skill since that seemed to be a secret.

"M-Me and Satou-san, doing such a thing!"

"Sera, he'll hear you if you're too loud you know?"

"Eh? U-umm, err--"

Sera who was teased by Lily stuttered while turning red.

It's rare to see that expression on her, she looks quite cute.

The two had a private talk for a while and then Lily said, "I'd like three day time to let Sera learn the ceremony", so I readily gave my consent.

Not like there's any impending crisis looming anyway, no problem with it.

"Do I not need to do anything?"

"Yes well, I think you'd only need to wear ceremonial clothes and take a bath in a purification ceremony with cold water in the morning of the ceremony day?"

Thus, I'm gonna spend the three day time until the appointed day by visiting my acquaintances.

Kuro and Nanashi aside, I haven't visited the duchy capital as Satou a lot after all.



"--Satou, where's Sera?"

"She's investigating something in Tenion Temple."

"Oh really..."

I got caught by a bored looking Lady Ringrande when I returned to the duke's castle.

She's wearing a light knight outfit today.

"Then you'll be going on a date with me. Let's go have some fun in duchy capital!"

Not sure how it came to this, but apparently I'll have to accompany Lady Ringrande killing time.

We're both wearing recognition inhibition items since it'll be bad if either of our identities get known.

"Look look! There's Pendragon Bun and Pendragon Kitchen Knife!"

Lady Ringrande was in high spirits while pointing at the items on stalls.

She probably finds it interesting to see me getting embarrassed.

"If you're going there, aren't they selling Ringrande Dolls and Portraits too."

Or rather, there's a lot more of those.

Dolls aside, I wonder if it's alright for them to sell portraits of a duke's daughter as a commodity, but since they're selling it openly, duke Oyugock himself has probably given them his permission.

"They've been selling those since ages ago, so it's fine! Forget about that, I

wonder what they're selling over there!"

Even though she brought the subject herself, she tried to get it off the moment it involved her, then she brought me to a stall afar.

"They smell kinda weird don't they?"

"Well they're pickles."

Lady Ringrande sniffed at a place where pickled jars were lined up.

Pickles that come out in a noble dining table have been preprocessed so they won't smell, that's probably why she finds this weird.

"Aunty, you forgot something."

"Oh my? Are you running an errand today?"

"Un, Futsuna asked me. I'm starving here. Gimme some Kuhanou pickle pleasee."

I passed by a girl I met before.

"--Huh?"

"What's wrong?"

"Uuun, it's nothing. He just looks like someone I know."

The girl whose eyes met mine raised her eyebrows as if she was recalling something even though I had the inhibition recognition item on, but she immediately yielded to her appetite and began sampling the pickles.

Urged by Lady Ringrande, I followed along the road and arrived at the port.

I can see the port branch of Echigoya firm slightly afar.

Sealkin children who have just entered into apprenticeship are working here and there near the entrance.

"Un, the port really is nice."

Lady Ringrande stretches herself on top of the great river while basking on the wind.

Her pulled tight clothes look quite attractive.

"--Ah."

A gust of wind blew her veil--and ran off with the recognition inhibition item.

"Ringrande-sama?"

"I see Ringrande-sama over there!"

As expected of a local celebrity.

Even though I immediately gave her back her veil, her identity still got widely circulated in an instant.

People calling [Ringrande] broke out in no time.

"Satou, let's get back to duchy castle separately."

After saying that, Lady Ringrande used the assistance of wind magic to leap onto a roof.

A crowd was also coming for me, but I managed to slip out using short-distance [Ground Shrink].

Let's go see the sealkin children while I'm at it.

"How is it going?"

"Masitaa"

"Where's Nana?"

I told them that I would bring Nana here next time and gave the two some candy.

While I was listening to their present situation, other young apprentices from the branch office had gathered, so I presented them with candy while telling them to, "Get along well with these kids okay."

They seem to be doing well already from what they told me though.

And when I got back to the duchy castle, I ended up having to instruct the duchy knights in swords together with Lady Ringrande.

The swordsmanship lesson was going relatively peaceful until--

"Which one is stronger between Demon Lord Slayer-dono and Ringrande-sama?"

The place became tense with those few words from an apprentice knight.

"Of course Ringrande-sama is stronger."

"Ara, I wonder about that?"

Lady Ringrande threw a doubt back at my words.

"Didn't you beat Heim-dono the other day? You might be already stronger than me now."

Lady Ringrande licked her lips while smiling like a carnivore who found her prey.

How do I say this, she really looks carnivorous.

"Let's test it out. You're not going to say not are you?"

"Guess I've got no choice."

Lady Ringrande stopped me when I was going to take a training wooden sword.

"Wait, let's fight with real swords."

"That's dangerous."

"It's fine, we have a high priest here, and there's always mid-grade potions ready."

--H-Hold it right there!

You already assumed that someone would get hurt?!

She seems to read my unrest, Lady Ringrande has the same expression like when she's teasing Sera.

"Ufufu, if you can win against me, I'll do just as grandfather-sama said and

become Satou's wife.

--Don't wanna.

As I dropped my shoulders in my mind, the surrounding duchy knights and merchants were surprised to hear Lady Ringrande's controversial statement and clamored enough to hurt one's ears.

Some asked whether she was telling the truth, but Lady Ringrande only smiled and didn't answer back.

"Here I go!"

With the fairy sword, I blocked Lady Ringrande who threw a stab while using Flickering Movement.

My ears that are on guard for her kick hear a chant.

"■■ Quick Burst"

--Seriously?

I strike and crush the lesser explosion magic with my palm to avoid a direct hit.

Lady Ringrande's curled up her lips in the corner of my view.

Her bare left hand clad in red light approaches.

--Magic Edge.

I strengthen my pivotal leg and jumps up from an unnatural stance.

Lady Ringrande rotated her body as if dancing as her magic sword sprung up like a bird of prey.

I intercept her sword with my fairy sword clad in Magic Edge.

Metallic sounds resounded along with scattering red light.

"■■ Quick Burst"

We're too close.

At this rate, Lady Ringrande will be engulfed in the explosion magic.

I let go of the fairy sword, catch Lady Ringrande's wrist and slip myself into the explosion magic.

An explosive sound.

And an impact on my back.

I had no injury since I put on Magic Armor on my back right before the impact hit, but the blast threw me and Lady Ringrande onto the training ground.

"You're really reckless."

"That's my line."

Lady Ringrande whispered under my arm.

There's a dagger clad in red light in her hand, thrust before my neck.

My bride candidate will increase if I win this, so this is just right.

"I give up."

When I declared so like getting a windfall, Lady Ringrande pinched my cheeks.

"That didn't feel like my win somehow. Wanna have another go?"

I shook my head to Lady Ringrande's suggestion, afterward, any duchy knights who wanted to have a match with me or Lady Ringrande got their wish.

The muscle brain knights who kept coming to me even after I beat them one after another was quite troublesome.

But well, the drinking bout afterward was quite fun though.

16-9. Sera's Resolution

※ This chapter is told from Sera's point of views --Faith or love, which one should I pick.

The kind and gentle Satou-san cannot approve of the gods' indiscriminating divine punishment.

To the point that it even prompted him to shelter Weasel Empire, who was the culprit, into another world using a power that was no difference than that of god.

If Satou-san were to really come into conflict with gods, I wonder what I should do....



"--To the Duchy capital?"

"I'd like to consult something with Tenion Temple's head miko--Lily--dono you see."

As I was worrying endlessly and stuck in the maze of my mind at the Solitary Island Palace, Satou-san invited me along to the Duchy Capital for a change of pace.

Of course I didn't say no.

"Are we going on an airship today?"

--That's unusual.

Satou-san could have gone back to our Duchy Capital in an instant with his space magic and Unique Skill.

"Yes, sometimes traveling in the air is nice for a change."

"You're right, it is."

This time, I'm the only one among the Solitary Island Palace members who's

going with Satou-san.

A journey of only two, though imprudence, it's a bit exciting.

Yet--.

"Satou-sama, so this is Satou-sama's personal airship."

"Sorry about this, Satou."

Why am I seeing two third wheels here.

"If you really feel sorry then you can just fly there with that Flying Wooden Horse."

I threw some sarcastic words to ane-sama who unreservedly made use of Satou-san while also peeling the touchy feely Ane-sama off Satou-san

I don't want to show dark emotions in front of Satou-san, but I can't control it well when I'm dealing with ane-sama.

I'm sure that the inferiority complex I had in my childhood still remains in the depth of my heart even now.

--Ah!

"Ririna-san, hugging a gentleman's arm who is not your fiance is shameless for a lady."

Good grief, I really cannot let my guard down.

I peeled off Ririna who promptly clung on Satou-san's arm.

"Ara? Sera, are you being jealous of a kid?"

"I'm not jealous! I'm just guiding her how to act like a lady."

"Hmmm, guiding huh--"

I calmly brushed off ane-sama who chided me while looking happy.

--Ey!"

Ane-sama suddenly embraced Satou-san's head.

"Onee-sama! You're shameless!"

I cannot believe it.

It's another matter with Ririna who's still a child, but it isn't something an adult woman like ane-sama should act like.

"Ara? Grandfather-sama told me to marry Satou you know? That means we're like fiance and fiancée now right?"

Grandfather-sama....

Please stop with such jokes, it will only serve to stimulate ane-sama.

I endured myself to deal with ane-sama until we arrived at the duchy capital in order to prevent her from troubling Satou-san.

Yes, I was relieved from the bottom of my heart the moment I saw the duchy castle's spire from the window.



"It has been awhile Satou-san."

"Nice to meet you again, Head Miko--No, Miko Lily."

The morning after the day we arrived at the duchy capital, I accompanied Satou-san to visit Tenion Temple.

Satou-san wishes to meet the gods.

"Since that's what you wish for, I'd love to have it granted it, but--"

Lily-sama paused.

"If you want to talk with a god yourself, then there is no choice but to use 『Invoke Deity』 to let a god advent into my body."

--Invoke Deity.

It's the ultimate holy magic to let one part of god descend unto your own Soul Vessel.

In the history books of Tenion temple, there were records of miko and priests utilizing Invoke Deity in order to fight against demon lords and greater

demons' invasions.

However, every one of them required a great compensation.

Worse than even losing their life, they apparently had their Soul Vessel broken.

It probably is not possible for the tiny vessel of man to bring into themselves a huge existence that is god.

"No, the compensation for that magic is much too big."

"If it's for you and this world's sake, I don't mind giving up this soul of mine you know?"

Lily-sama jokingly said that to Satou-san who was shaking his head.

However, Lily-sama is being serious.

I'm scared that she would really do it were Satou-san nodded.

Lily-san suggested the method an ancient king used to have a dialog with gods to Satou-san who asked for another mean.

We asked for the current head-miko's permission to enter Tenion Temple's banned archive and looked for the document we sought.

"Here it is--looks like it needs quite a difficult ceremony."

Lily-sama muttered while looking over a banned book.

The ceremony needed some rare items, but Satou-san arranged them up in a line with a calm face as usual.

Please stop treating the philosopher's stone like taking a pebble out of your pocket.

Look, Lily-sama is getting dumbfounded there.

"Ufufu, you really are amazing."

The childish looking Lily-sama smiles at Satou-san.

Her maiden in love air is making my heart ache, I wonder if I'm imagining things.

"The ceremony needs Prayer magic you see. If Sera can recite it, can I leave it

to you?"

"I have never tried using the magic, but I believe I can do it."

"If you aren't sure, I don't mind using it myself, but--"

Lily-sama whispered into my ears with a mischievous look on her face.

--The ceremony requires you two to stick together in bare."

"B-bare?"

Shameless!

It's too shameless!

An unmarried maiden embracing with a gentleman naked!!

"But Sera, aren't you used to embracing Satou-san naked?"

Lily-sama said some unbelievable things.

"M-Me and Satou-san, doing such a thing!"

"Sera, he'll hear you if you're too loud you know?"

"Eh? U-umm, err--"

Lily-sama reproved me when I reflexively shouted out loud.

"So what would you do, Sera? I can do it for you if you're embarrassed you know?"

Lily-sama looks into my eyes with a teasing look.

The figures of Satou-san and Lily-sama embracing each other in nude flashed in my mind.

--I don't want that.

I resolved myself at the words that flashed for an instant.

I breathe deeply and put strength in my stomach.

--I will do it."

Lily-sama nodded satisfyingly at my limp teary sounding voice that was in contrast to my resolution.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka.com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



After parting with Satou-san who went back to the duchy castle, I was led by Lily-sama to a work room at a corner of the sanctuary.

"Well then Sera. Please work on this."

She handed me a ceremonial white holy robe and two spools of jade silk thread.

Along with a handbook about ceremonial embroidery patterns.

--Don't tell me, I have to embroider the holy robe starting from now?

"U-umm, but the ceremony is in two days...."

"It's alright, I'm sure Sera could do it."

Lily-sama replied my question with a smile.

"You're good at embroidery right?"

"Yes...."

It appears that there is no escaping this.

"I'll do my best."

I quickly and carefully begin to embroider.

Of course, I'm doing it while putting my prayers to god Tenion.

I kept working until total exhaustion, and on midnight of the ceremony day--

"Oh no, I fell asleep."

I raised up in a hurry and checked to see if the holy robe were dirtied.

--Eh?

Even though there should have been more than half of unfinished

embroideries, everything is already done.

Having no idea what happened, I looked around and found nutritional supplements and snacks that would still taste good eaten cold at the corner of a table.

"...Satou-san."

Warmth coming from the bottom of my heart warms me up.

<--O my dear human child>

A voice that isn't a voice.

<O young girl in love>

Neither it is a thought, the words fall from the sanctuary's ceiling.

<Speak of your feelings.>

I surrender myself to the sudden oracle.

I spoke to my heart's content just as god Tenion desired.



--The next morning.

The embroidery pattern on the robes gets transcribed onto my body by Lily-sama and current head miko-sama's holy magic.

Everything is ready now.

"Sera, give it your all."

"I'm sure you can do it."

"Yes, Lily-sama, head miko-sama."

Miko who have undergone purification ceremony are lined up along the ceremony place.

"King entering--"

Satou-san who was wearing ancient king-like clothing walked into the ceremony in the sanctuary.

Coupled with the classical king clothing, today Satou-san really looks like a king.

He looks more dignified than usual.

"O king, stand before miko."

Satou-san followed the current head miko words and came walking here.

Satou-san whose eyes met mine lets out his usual gentle smile.

Even though he's going to communicate with god Tenion, he's acting like he always is.

"O king, discard your worldly garment."

Two miko take off Satou-san's clothing.

It was over in an instant since there was only one piece.

The miko blushed to see Satou-san's symmetrical naked body.

I stared at Satou-san's calm eyes to keep my line of sight from going down.

"O miko of guidance, discard your worldly garment."

The miko take off my robe.

When I think that Satou-san is watching, I feel so embarrassed it's enough to turn my whole body red.

Even though I'm feeling this embarrassed, Satou-san looks nonchalant as usual.

It's somehow--no, it's really frustrating.

But this isn't the time for that.

I have to continue with the ceremony for Satou-san's sake--.

"O miko of guidance, show the king the way."

I spread both my arms and embrace Satou-san's upper arms.

Even though Satou-san's body look as soft as that of a woman, it's covered with slightly hard muscles.

The serene light of the sanctuary, and the words of miko celebrating for god

soothe my heart that's falling into disarray from that sensation.

--God.

I look up at the sanctuary's ceiling and calls for god Tenion.

--Great god who watches over us.

A light falls from the sky as if answering my call.

This warm light is god Tenion's holy light.

I surrender myself to god Tenion's holy light like I always did when receiving oracles.

<O my dear human children. O king who calls for me by way of maiden. State your wish-->

16-10. Behind the Ceremony (1)

"Arisa~?"

"You'll catch a cold desuyo?"

Tama and Pochi are worriedly looking at Arisa who's sitting under a waterfall wearing a white unlined kimono.

"You'll be late~?"

"Sensei will scold you nodesu."

Looks like the two came to get Arisa after getting ready for school.

"I'm not going to school today, tell Mia for me okay."

"Playing hooky~?"

"Hikineet is risky and dangerous nodesu!"

Tama and Pochi looked like they couldn't believe Arisa who declared her absence.

For the two who have only recently started school and really enjoyed it, they probably can't believe that she'll be taking a leave even though she's not sick.

"It's fine! I've got to do something more important today!"

"What is~?"

"Please tell us nodesu."

"You heard that Master would do a ceremony at the duchy capital during breakfast right?"

"Aye."

"Yes nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi affirmed Arisa's question.

"I'm sharpening my mind just in case I catch an SOS from master through 『Familiar~ Power~』 you see."

"Tama will do it too~?"

"Pochi will catch SOS too nodesu!"

Arisa waved her head aside while smiling wryly at the two's expected response.

"You two's roles are for later, leave today to me and go to school. Your pickup is coming right about now isn't it."

"Ah! nanodesu."

"Hu~rry~ up~?"

Pochi and Tama recalled China who's always coming to get them every morning and panicked.

"We're off~?"

"Arisa! Be sure to tell Pochi if you're in trouble nodesuyo!"

"Yes yes, take car~e."

Arisa waves her hand like usual at the two who head to the teleport gate in a hurry like they're tumbling.

"Now then--"

Arisa turned back to a serious look after the two were gone and clapped her cheeks.

"--Alright, I'm all fired up."

Arisa closes her eyes while getting hit by the waterfall, focusing fully to connect a thin line toward her dear master.

Her intuition tells her that it's the only thing she can rely on when she can't contact him through Space magic.



"Nyu?"

Tama who was inside a carriage in her commute to school stretched her back

and looked around.

Her radar-like ears are standing and flapping rapidly.

"What's wrong nodesu?"

"Nyuuu"

Tama tilted her head to the side at Pochi's question.

Looks like her premonition this time is the kind that can't be expressed with words.

"Mia-sama, what seems to be the matter?"

At the same time, Mia who was in the same carriage with them had a mystified look on her face.

"The spirits are quiet--"

The spirits that are usually always noisy are quiet like insects in fear of a beast.

Mia who had a bad feeling about it peered outside the carriage window and looked up to the sky.

"--Castle?"

Mia's eyes saw the spirits enclosing the castle.

Or to be more exact, the spirits look like they're running away from the castle.

"Mia-sama, is there anything wrong with the castle?"

"Nn, nevermind."

Mia waved her head to reply the anxious China.

Apparently she concluded that the Sakura Dryad probably had a fit and the spirits were running away from her.



"So this is the--Holy Shell Mobile Armor."

Princess Sistina is looking up at the Holy Shell Mobile Armor inside a hangar in the royal castle.

She probably almost slipped "that Satou made" words.

Beside her, Zena Marientail who's acting as her bodyguard, and Karina Munio who's acting as her friend are looking up at the Holy Shell Mobile Armor with sparkling eyes.

The two are aware that this one is a replica, but the fact that it looks exactly like the legendary Holy Shell Mobile Armor is enough to turn it into an object of admiration.

In place of the two who are overcome with emotions the one who answers princess Sistina is an old man who comes walking in with a cane.

"Yes, his majesty has given his permission for us to activate the main engine, therefore we're planning to perform a startup test today."

The chief of Royal Research Institute informed princess Sistina.

In order to examine the Holy Shell Mobile Armor, the brains of this kingdom,

which include the chief, Shiga 33 Canes, and golem researchers among others have gathered in this hangar.

"EEY! Let me touch it!"

"P-prof, you can't!"

"Lemme go, Aoi! That spirally shining main engine is calling for me!"

Looks like Prof. Jahad and Aoi boy from Echigoya Firm have come too.

It seems the professor is being unreasonable after seeing its central part, the sacred tree stone furnace shining blue--the [Philosopher's Stone] contained within the Magic Generator.

"I'd have preferred if Echigoya Firm sent someone better than a moron who was chased out of the Royal Research Institute."

The chief who saw the scene spat out while looking irritated and then turned a smile toward princess Sistina.

He's quite quick to flip the switch.

"While the main engine and armaments of this Holy Shell Mobile Armor are great, its armor is simply magnificent. Please look at it, under the white coat hidden an armorplate made of the holy orichalcum referred as divine metal by some."

"You just don't get it do you, tinplate nerd."

Interrupting the chief who almost sounded delirious was an elderly man who is a member of Shiga 33 Canes and does research on defensive magic.

"How can you not comprehend the splendor of this coating! Your highness Sistina, this coat is exactly the proof of Shiga Kingdom guardian. In addition to having the power to nullify up to mid-class level magic, it has the ability to absorb the liberated mana from magic it nullifies into its own main engine!"

"T-that sounds wonderful. Rahad-dono is really talented to understand that far this quick."

Princess Sistina inched back to see a fervent speech of an elderly man.

As she had been informed of that ability by Satou, she seemed to be surprised by the fact that it was analyzed so quick.

Identifying the effect that is, reproducing it is another matter entirely.

"Quiet you shield nerd. Your highness Sistina, this armor won't get even a scratch from a magic edge clad mithril sword! Wonderful isn't it!"

The chief is showing off an armorplate taken off the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

"Hee, isn't that really sturdy?"

Lady Karina who was touching the armorplate all over tried to scratch it with her finger clad with magic edge that she learned recently.

A straight line got splendidly drawn, and Lady Karina's face quickly turned pale.

Her level of clumsiness compares to that of Pochi.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

Meanwhile at Royal Academy, childhood school--.

--Nyu?"

Tama who was holding a pen in her mouth while looking sleepy suddenly raised her face with a serious look on it.

"What's wrong nodesu?"

Pochi who noticed that asked Tama.

Shiro and Crow sitting on the seats in front of them seem curious too.

Tama's cat ears are twitching and trembling.

"Nyu~?"

Tama returned to her relaxed look and fell limply on her desk.

"Famished~?"

"Pochi is starving too nanodesu! But early lunch is bad nodesuyo? That's a forbidden technique nanodesu. Hell will be waiting for us at lunch if we eat now

nodesu."

A rolled textbook got on the head of Pochi who was having a fervent speech.

Reflected in the eyes of Pochi who looked up was a female teacher whose mood turned for the worse.

"Ah--"

"Chatting during class is?"

"B-bad nanodesu."

"And what should you do when you did bad things?"

"We're sorry~?"

"We're sorry nanodesu."

Pochi whose ears are flopped down and tail is hidden between her legs apologizes to the female teacher.

"You'd go without lunch as a penalty if you did it again."

"Ga~n"

"O-oh no nanodesu."

Tama's and Pochi's bodies were paralyzed in fear when the female teacher told them the weight of penalty for a major offense.

They look at each other and make a mouth zip gesture.

30 minutes until lunchtime.

Incited by Tama's belly rumbling, Pochi's belly rumbling began to have a chorus together.

The chorus gradually spread inside the classroom.



"Formula 4."

At the Royal Magic Academy, Mia-sensei is using a long wand as a substitute for lecture stick to teach her class.

"Conversion, solution 27."

The students are desperately deciphering Mia-sensei's lack of words as they try to understand the lecture.

Looks like there is a different kind of hardships to be found in a lecture without an excellent translator that is Arisa.

"I-if only Arisa-sensei was here now..."

"A-Arisa-sensei--"

It appears a lot of students and teachers who usually ridiculed Arisa as being Mia-sensei's extra have realized her true worth now.

However, only a few noticed the fact that her being able to translate it means that her understanding of magic is equaling Mia-sensei or more.

Arisa-sensei who would have gotten a passionate call by the students unlike anything before had she were here is probably still doing the cold water ablutions under the waterfall in the Solitary Island Palace even now.



"--Ara?"

Princess Sistina felt something odd from the Mobile Armor behind the chief.

You normally need the assistance of multiple mechanics and magicians to board the Mobile Armor, but there isn't anyone who's supporting the Mobile Armor now.

And it seems princess Sistina wasn't the only one who noticed that.

"Oy! Who's moving it!"

Someone who found something amiss with the elevator where the Mobile Armor was put beside the Holy Shell Mobile Armor shouted.

"What? We're not using the Mobile Armor for the startup test y'know?"

"Who's piloting it?"

Mobile Armor is something like an anti-gravity device for the pilot of Holy Shell Mobile Armor, so it's not needed unless the test demands intense movements.

Incidentally, this Mobile Armor isn't the real one, but a replica Satou made.

"Tina-sama, Karina-sama, we should get away from here. There's something wrong going on."

『Umu, I agree with Zena-dono's opinion.』

《Intelligent Item》Raka that lady Karina wore agreed with Zena-san who advised them to evacuate.

As the three were on their way to the office to take shelter, sounds of metal getting crushed resounded in the hangar.

The three looked back and saw scaffold and elevator that enclosed the Holy Shell Mobile Armor collapsing to the ground.

Magicians and researchers in white robes are running about in confusion below.

"This is bad desuwa!"

『Ka-Karina-dono, wait!!』

Disregarding Raka's warning, Lady Karina charged toward the collapsing scaffold.

Lady Karina roughly pushed away the researchers who were about to be crushed by the collapsing scaffold.

Main part of the scaffold and steel frames are falling toward Lady Karina who's had a decisive look on her face.

--Karina-sama!

Zena and princess Sistina raised a scream in their mind as they held out their hands equipped with magic activation rings and began to chant.

Both of them are fully aware of the fact that their chant won't make it in time.

They saw Raka protecting Lady Karina from the steel frames that fell first, and then one after another hit the ground as the surroundings were filled with despairing roaring sounds and cloud of dust.



"Haa... Satou and Sera aren't here for the ceremony, I can't visit them either, I'm bored."

In an arbor inside a courtyard of the Duchy Castle that occupied the western part of Oyugock City, Lady Ringrande who's also known as [Sky Champion Witch] is bored out of her mind.

Of course, it's not like she doesn't have any close friend.

However, most of them are already married and have many children.

For a late bloomer at her age with no boyfriend like her, visiting them is a difficult hurdle to mentally overcome.

"Maybe I should have another practice round with the duchy knights..."

She felt hesitant to practice as there wasn't anyone who could fight her evenly here.

--If only Satou were here at least.

Lady Ringrande caught sight of something odd when that thought flashed in her mind.

"Ara? Isn't that Wyvern Rider flying strangely?"

Ringrande was puzzled to see a wyvern flying acrobatically above the duchy castle.

The next moment, a ray of light shot from the horizon cut the flying wyvern in two.

She saw wyvern's blood scattering as the wingkin rider who was riding on its back frantically tried to escape.

Lady Ringrande grasped her trusty sword next to her and stood up.

"Enemy's attack!"

Lady Ringrande ran off while shouting out loud, and the castle's alarm resounded a moment later.

"Judging from the alarm, the enemy is coming from the south--"

The physically reinforced Lady Ringrande ran through the corridor like the wind.

She's heading to the castle tower to the south--.

Multiple roaring sounds resounded while she was running, the duchy castle's defensive barrier repelled the light.

Frightened maids and officials are crouching in the passage.

--She should be able to see the assailant from there.



"Temple Head-sama."

The loud roars and tremor transmitted from outside Tenion Temple caused

unrest amongst the priests who participated in the ceremony.

Fortunately, Sera, Satou, Lily who supported them and the other miko haven't noticed the loud sounds and tremor because they are in trance states.

"Keep going. This sanctuary is protected by Tenion-sama's divine protection. Don't worry and continue."

Hearing the temple head, the priests resume channeling their mana to the miko one after another.

(Tenion-sama, please extend your protection to your pious believers.)

The temple head offered her prayer to the light that came down to Sera and Satou.

Unaware with the incidents that simultaneously happened in both the royal capital and the duchy capital, Satou is having a chance meeting with God Tenion during the ceremony.

『Nice to meet you, Tenion-sama. I am--』

16-11. Behind the Ceremony (2)

"Are the anti-air Magic Artillery and the ballistas still not ready!"

"Birdkin unit, wyvern unit, take off in turn. Take the formation in the air."

"Replace the equipment of golem unit with anti-air one!"

"The assault force is coming! Make absolutely sure that fire wand unit and magic soldier unit are accompanied by escort platoons!"

Wind magicians transmitted instructions from the duchy castle's control room.

The next duke who holds the authority as the territory lord's proxy showed up in the control room.

"Give me a status update."

"A combat-ready large-scale aerial warship has appeared out of thin air in the sky above the duchy capital."

"--Appeared?"

A huge aerial warship is projected on the basin put in front of the next duke.

The ship's organic-looking form in purple and black color leaves an ominous impression on anyone looking at it.

"According to the report from soldiers in the lookout tower, it suddenly appeared in the sky above the duchy capital."

"Not on the outer edge the capital?"

"Yes."

The next duke knitted his brows dubiously to hear the report.

If it appeared right outside the duchy capital, then it might have employed light magic to hide itself, or hid in the cloud using water magic as a possible explanation, but there is simply no way an aerial warship that huge could appear out of nowhere in the middle of the capital without him, the lord's proxy, noticing.

The only way it could slip through barrier put by the City Core and invade without the lord's proxy not noticing are through shadow magic or space magic, however, it shouldn't be possible for either magic to move an aerial warship that huge in the air.

At the very least, the next duke can't think of anyone capable of the feat.

"Whose ship is it?"

"Affiliation unknown--"

"Look at it closely you fool. They have the demon lord believer group 『Wings of Liberty』's flag and the 『Golden Wild Boar King』's flag raised."

The one who interrupted was a masculine-looking noble of around forty.

The appearance of the current head of Earl Bobi Household that was once manipulated by the demon lord's believers [Wings of Liberty], Earl Keon Bobi gathered gazes full of animosity to him.

The duchy knights nonchalantly shifted their positions in order to protect the lord's proxy.

"In other words, you guided that aerial warship here did you not!"

"Is this the time to engage in nonsense, Sir Houen."

The one who voiced the surrounding people's suspicion out loud was the legitimate child of Earl Houen.

Earl Keon Bobi paid him no heed and brushed it off as a nonsense.

"Stop, Sir Houen. Hero Nanashi himself has guaranteed Keon-dono's innocent."

With irritation in his voice, the next duke warned the two who had formed a dangerous air between them.

The [Guaranteed by Hero Nanashi] part stemmed from the member list of [Wings of Liberty] that Hero Nanashi gave to the duke.

"However..."

"If you want, I don't mind touching the Yamato Stone of this castle once again?"

Seeing Sir Houen looking discontent, Earl Keon Bobi suggested an easy way to prove his innocence while smiling sarcastically.

Since it's a very disgraceful act for a noble.

"No need. More importantly, we need to deal with that airship now."

"Agree. Your excellency, we must not let that airship get close here. We have to destroy it before it approaches the duchy castle."

Earl Keon Bobi proposed an extreme measure in his reply to the next duke.

"Are you suggesting that we should shoot down a large aerial warship right above the duchy capital?"

Doing that in the middle of the overcrowded duchy capital would undoubtedly result in enormous victims.

"I am. However, that is our best course of action. Have your excellency's forgotten the modus operandi of the 『Wings of Liberty』."

"...Short horn!"

Before, a group of demon lord believers [Wings of Liberty] who revived the [Golden Wild Boar King] under the duchy capital terrorized the dukedom by using evil items called Short Horn and Long Horn to transform humans into lesser and mid demons.

Earl Keon Bobi thinks that the large aerial warship isn't merely a combat vessel, but also an assault warship that contains demons within.

"Tell me the warship's location!"

"It's going to reach the sky above the arena soon."

A wind magician replied the next duke's query.

The arena is between the commoners' and the nobles' living areas.

It's the optimal location if they want to minimize human damage.

"The large aerial warship has made a new move! A large magic artillery installed on its bow has begun operating."

The basin showing the large aerial warship got painted white at the same time as the report hit.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Whose large airship is that? --Not like I need to think deeply."

The one looking up at the huge black airship in the sky from the duchy castle's balcony was a lady from the duke household, and a former hero's attendant, Lady Ringrande.

"Ringrande-sama?"

"I-it's terrible."

A civil official and a maid she pushed out of the balcony were surprised.

Lady Ringrande didn't waste any time to warn them as she took out a long wand from her magic pouch and began to chant a spell.

Looks like she's recognized that large aerial warship as an enemy with only one glance.

It had already cut up a Wyvern Rider using a mysterious ray in the first place, so it's only right.

"■■ Boost Magic, ■■■ Manipulate Mana, ■■■■ Link Mana Line, and while I'm at it, the special magic strengthening medicine--"

Lady Ringrande used magic reinforcement skills in succession and even drank a rare medicine she acquired in her trip with hero to boost her magic.

If it was the past her, she would have used the Talisman from God Parion without a moment of hesitation.

However, she doesn't have that Talisman now that she's not a hero's attendant anymore.

"Oooh, what a stunning surge of mana."

"So pretty."

The impressions between an official who had undergone basic magic training and a maid who had not seemed to differ even though they were looking at the same thing.

Scenes of Wyvern Riders and Magic Artillery unit on the ground attacking the large warship are unfolding before Lady Ringrande's eyes, but the magic barrier protecting the ship is massive, and none of their attacks seems to be effective.

The large aerial warship kept advancing and reached the sky above the arena.

And then, its bow has started to be tinged with an ominous-looking light.

"Ringrande-sama, the enemy ship is!"

"O-oh no! W-we've got to r-r-run!"

The panicking maid stretches her hand toward Lady Ringrande.

The civil official who saw that had a cramp on his face.

If she got in the way of Lady Ringrande's advanced level magic spell chanting after having her magic boosted this much, the huge torrent of mana that loses their target will obviously attack them instead.

A slim white hand extends toward Lady Ringrande's hand that holds a long wand--.



"Contact the royal knights!"

"Hurry and evacuate the researchers!"

The royal capital's hangar is in confusion because the Holy Shell Mobile Armor has been hijacked by someone.

Due to that, the only ones who were worried about a daughter of Marquis Muno, Karina, who sacrificed herself to save the researchers' life and got buried under the scaffold and steel frames, were her friends.

"Karina-sama...."

"T-that's right! We have to rescue Karina-sama!"

Zena-sama pulled herself together when she heard princess Sistina's muttering and said the obvious.

"Wait, Zena. Look at that!"

A black shadow moved behind the cloud of dust.

"Is that, Karina-sama?"

"....It doesn't seem to be the case."

Bizarre-looking humanoids made of steel frames and debris showed up behind the cloud of dust.

They awkwardly drag their feet on the hangar's floor like living armors or skeletons.

One of them extended its hand toward one of the researchers that was late to escape--and beat him to death.

"N-no...."

"Looks like it's not the time for us to just watch. Come forth, my golems--"

Princess Sistina took a conductor's baton out of her magic bag and swung it.

Zena went out of the hangar office to stop the humanoid's act of barbarism.

"Dwell in my sword--Magic Edge."

Zena clad a mithril alloy dagger she took out of her magic bag with magic edge.

Satou has given her back her exclusive holy sword [Wind Dagger] she used during the Divine Punishment incident, but it seems she's not going to use it as she's not fighting as the Silver Knight Air now.

Zena cuts down the bizarre humanoid with a single blow.

"A-amazing."

"My gratitude knight-sama."

"--She's so lovely."

The researchers she saved gave their thanks.

There was a weird one among them, but that must have been because of Zena-san's prim and proper beauty.

"Please everyone, hurry up and evacuate!"

Zena-san shouted out loud in exasperation at the researchers who kept dawdling.

The bizarre humanoids reproduce faster than Zena-san can beat them.

"Just leave the small fries alone and go beat the main body!"

"Prof, we've got to hurry and escape!"

Prof Jahad of Echigoya Firm shouted to Zena-san.

His subordinate, Aoi boy pulled his white robe as the prof refused to leave.

"But the main body..."

Looks like the idea of attacking a national treasure, the Holy Shell Mobile Armor didn't even cross her mind.

Something else began to move as Zena-san repeatedly cut up the humanoids while feeling troubled.

"Mu, is it a new one?"

Prof Jahad muttered when he saw granite knights materializing from the hangar's ground one after another.

"Zena! Leave the small fries to the golems and aim for the main body!"

"Then, these are your highness's?"

Zena grasped the situation the moment she saw Princess Sistina shouting from the office's door.

Zena left the fighting to princess Sistina's golem army and flew in the air with chanted flight magic.

The Holy Shell Mobile Armor's central part and eyes have only been flashing, it hasn't moved at all from where it was.

This someone who has stolen and boarded the Holy Shell Mobile Armor probably doesn't understand how to pilot it.

".... ■■ Air Hammer."

Zena's specialty, the air hammer shook the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's cranium.

However, it seems that blow didn't give any real damage.

"It's not working. Then how about advanced wind magic--■■■■■...."

Zena started to chant.

Seemingly sensing the crisis, one of Holy Shell Mobile Armor's finger slightly moved.

『Damn you worm.』

A provoking male voice resounded from the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

The one in control seemed to have hit the switch for external speakers while he was fumbling around.

Light of mana emits from the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's arms and legs, signifying its startup--.

"Dosseiii, desuwa!"

Wreckages of scaffold and steel frames that were on the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's feet got blown away with a spirited yell.

"--Oh my, Karina-sama."

Princess Sistina who saw the scene from the office room muttered like she had completely forgotten about her.

Her sole saving grace is probably Zena-san who had a relieved look in the air.

『Uwoo』

The pilot got surprised by the flying debris on its feet and took a step forward.

A shadow falls on top of Karina who has both her arms up in the air.



"Nyu?"

Tama who was attending the lecture while enduring her hunger in a classroom of the royal childhood school raised her face.

"What's wrong nodesu?"

"Nyu, something feels weird?"

Tama tilted her head to the side at Pochi's question.

Shiro who's sitting next to Tama pokes her side.

"Tama, from China-sama."

"Senkyu~?"

"It smells sweet nanodesu."

She received some kind of a small round things wrapped in paper.

Tama unwrapped the paper and found a small candy, the paper was written with "Bear with this until lunch" in childish yet tidy handwritings.

As Tama was going to put the candy into her mouth, she saw the drooling Pochi in the edge of her view.

Tama reflexively stops her hand and looks at the candy and Pochi as if comparing them.

There's one candy.

Tama and Pochi are two.

"Huge problem~?"

Tama folds her arms while frowning and catches the sight of the blackboard with lecture about fraction written on it.

Tama's eyes glittered when she saw a circle divided in two.

"Inspiraation~?"

Tama produced magic edge on the tip of her nail.

And with a swing, the candy got divided into two.

"Here you go Pochi~"

"Thank you nanodesu."

The two tossed the candy into their mouth and their faces broke into smiles.

The "something feels weird?" that Tama felt just a while ago has completely evaporated from her mind.



"Don't disturb her."

"Kya."

The official managed to stop the maid whose hand very nearly grabbed Lady Ringrande's arm.

To begin with, Lady Ringrande's chant wouldn't have stopped just from her hand getting grabbed.

In fact--.

"UOOOOOOOOO"

"KYAAAAAAA"

Even in a situation where the official and the maid screamed their lungs out as the large aerial warship's Magic Artillery hit the castle's defensive barrier, delivering thunderous roars and shaking, her concentration never breaks up.

"....■■■■■■ <<Mass Explosion Field>>!"

One of the most powerful anti-army spell even amongst Explosion magic that excels in power was unleashed from the one corner of the duchy castle.

Chain explosions, each equaling [Explosion] attack magic in power, hit and wrap the large Aerial warship.

"Ringrande's magic huh--"

"As one would expect of 『Sky Champion Witch』. She has this much power,

regardless of the fact that she was a 『Hero's Attendant』."

The next duke and Keon Bobi exchanged words in the duchy castle's control room.

They saw the large aerial warship showing up out of the explosions on the basin.

"It's still not going down?"

Even after losing its outer armor and getting wrapped in smokes and flames on its whole body, it's still floating in the air even though it's slowed down.

"Is that? A golem?"

"I-it cannot be..."

Sir Houen turned pale the moment he saw the being that stood on the ship's bow.

"Do you know what that is, Sir Houen."

"T-that's the Mobile Armor... The Holy Shell Mobile Armor from ancestor king Yamato-sama's legend, there is no doubt about it."

Sir Houen replied the next duke.

"That can't be true. The Holy Shell Mobile Armor should be in the Royal Capital now."

After all, that's the whole reason why their fathers have all gone to the royal capital.

"No, it's the very image of Holy Shell Mobile Armor depicted in the portrait we have in our house."

If the ancestor king Yamato--Duchess Mitsukuni were here, she probably would say this.

That's [Dynast]--.



"It won't go down even after receiving that attack? Also, that thing on the warship's bow, no matter how I look at it, it's 'that' isn't it?"

It looks similar to [General] she saw in the royal capital.

Lady Ringrande runs in the hallway to make her next move.

Her destination is the castle's depot where the Tourism Ministry's airship is stationed.

"Ringrande-sama! Where are you heading to?"

"Ipasa?"

She met several running duchy knights while she was running in the hallway.

They're probably on their move to join their main unit.

"Isn't it obvious. I'm going on a counteroffensive."

"However--"

"If ranged attacks don't work, that means I just need to get close."

Ipasa was going to say that her attack wouldn't reach the enemy in the air, but Lady Ringrande interrupted.

She told them her destination and that the being standing on the enemy warship's bow was the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

"That thing is?"

"The Holy Shell Mobile Armor told in the legend..."

"Why is a ship that carries the Holy Shell Mobile Armor attacking the duchy capital?"

"I don't know."

Lady Ringrande curtly brushed off the knights' questions that started from Sir Ipas.

Right at that time, the large aerial warship that could be seen from the hallway showed a new movement.

The armors of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor that was taking an imposing stance on the bow opened one after another and got clad in red light.

"--This looks bad."

Faster than Lady Ringrande could mutter, the Wyvern Riders and birdkin unit that carried fire wands took an evasive maneuver to get away from the large aerial warship.

However, they were slightly too late.

Wyvern Riders and birdkin burned by the Magic Artillery fell one after another.

"N-No way. For Ancestor King-sama's Holy Shell Mobile Armor to injure his own people."

"Get ahold of yourself. There's no guarantee that the one piloting Holy Shell Mobile Armor will always be good person."

Lady Ringrande rebuked the shaken knights.

If she knew this would happen, she wouldn't have told them that the thing on the warship's bow was the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

A small regret tucked in Lady Ringrande's mind.

"I'll be going to the airship. Tell my father what we talked just now!"

"Please wait. We can use attack magic too."

"Go quickly, my explosion magic doesn't work on that thing."

Lady Ringrande persuaded the knights who wanted to escort her and ran toward the depot.

A medium airship filled with large-scale Magic Artillery leaped into her eyes.

The Holy Shell Mobile Armor standing on the aerial warship's bow that can be seen in the distance has its arms transformed.

"What is it going to do--"

Lady Ringrande quickly boarded the small airship she was looking for the moment she found it.

"Ringrande-sama? The outside seems to be quite noisy."

Unaffected by the thunderous roars and shaking, the brownie girl in flight uniform kept eating smooth cold gelatin.

By the way, it's brown sugar syrup tasted.

"As expected of Satou's subordinate. Lend me the airship."

"Yes, I don't mind, but what are we going to do?"

The brownie in flight uniform tilted her head to reply the flustered sounding Lady Ringrande.

There's no problem here since her master, Satou, has asked her to comply with Lady Ringrande's request if she wants to embark during their stay here.

However, it seems like she's a bit curious about the purpose.

"Obviously. We're going to beat the enemy down."

"Are we allowed to fly acrobatically?"

"Yes, fly in any way you want to evade the enemy's attacks."

"Yay!"

The brownie in flight uniform jumped in joy wholeheartedly.

"Skipping 256 checklists needed before takeoff--"

The brownie canceled all the necessary procedures and forcefully activated the magic furnace and aerodynamic engine.

"--Airship, emergency takeoff!"

"T-that was reckless."

Lady Ringrande muttered while enduring the intense gravity during takeoff.

"But I like it."

The brownie in flight uniform grinned to hear Lady Ringrande's muttering.

A fight between airships has already begun before her eyes.

The medium airship in the sky above the castle shot out all of its large-scale Magic Artillery, but all of it was blocked by a defensive barrier that expanded in front of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

This time, a huge fireball was shot out of both arms of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

The medium airship tried to evade while putting up a defensive barrier.

The fireball soared while burning the air and demolished the barrier protecting the medium airship in one blow.

"What an unbelievable firepower. That doesn't seem to be an ordinary large-scale Magic Artillery."

Her mouth muttered, 'no doubt about it, that's the ancient magic kingdom's [Magic Artillery]'.

The huge fireball that destroyed the medium airship was flying toward this ship too.

The brownie in flight uniform superhumanly evaded the fireball that would have swallowed an airship of this size whole, by a paper-thin difference.

Even Lady Ringrande could only manage to grit her teeth to prevent herself from biting her own tongue.

"Ringrande-sama, that!"

The brownie in flight uniform pointed at the Holy Shell Mobile Armor that had stopped attacking and had its chest armor part opened while looking at this ship.

It's probably going to do some kind of new attack.

"Bring it on!"

Lady Ringrande opened the hatch on the cockpit's ceiling and put the upper half of her body out.

She affixes her legs and body and readies her trusted wand.

『RIIIIIIIINGRANDEEEEEEEEEEEEE』

A voice full of resentment resounded from the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

The voice that called for her name sounded familiar to Lady Ringrande.

"T-this voice, his highness Sharlick?"

She muttered the name of Shiga Kingdom's third prince who was once her fiancé.

"What are you doing here?"

Her question was met with silence.

At the end of her line of sight, the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's chest gets clad in light, and then it shoots out a dazzling light.

The divine weapon, [Damnation Cannon], that was once given by gods to the king of Lalakie who lived in a floating land, unleashed its menace here in this place.



"--This is bad."

Arisa muttered with a pale face as she was hit by the waterfall in the Solitary Island Palace.

"I've got to hurry--"

The figure of a purple haired little girl was nowhere to be found the moment the words spoken out of the trembling lips got drown out by the waterfall sound.

16-12. A Conversation with God Tenion

Satou's here. I can never get used to interviews even though I went through them many times during high school, college and job-hunting. Can't help but feeling nervous in front of big shots.



"Earl-sama, please change into this ceremonial clothing."

"Yeah, I got it."

I change into the ceremonial white robe.

It's very thin and they provide no underwear.

Initially, I'm doing the ceremony in a different room from Sera and then I get to put a crown-like metalwork on in the end.

Maybe it was due to the almost see-through garment I wore, during the ceremony, the female priestesses' eyes were staring really hard at me, it was a bit embarrassing.

"King, please come over here--"

The present head miko called me.

Apparently, I'm getting called [Ancient King] during this ceremony.

>Title [Ancient King] Acquired

Miko apprentice Lily is standing next to the present head miko.

"■■■■ <<Holy Crest Trans>>

"■■■■ <<Holy Crest Trans>>

With the present head miko's and miko apprentice Lily's holy magic, the crest inscribed on the holy robe got transcribed onto my body.

Next, it's the ceremony to communicate with God Tenion.

"King's entrance--"

I stepped my foot into the holy rite room with an attire that resembled the ancient king.

Many miko who have undergone the purification rite are standing in lines inside the room.

Looks like the present head miko is leading the ceremony.

"O king, stand before miko."

Sera was waiting for me in mystical looking miko clothes at the center of the sanctuary.

I smiled at her when our eyes met since she seemed tense.

I feel that she's loosened herself a little.

When I've come before Sera, several miko get to our sides.

"O king, discard your worldly garment."

--Eh?

I didn't hear anything about this you know?

Two of the miko take off my clothes.

Sera and the surrounding miko blushed when they saw my naked body.

I'm not an exhibitionist so I get embarrassed at this.

> Title [New Fetish Awakening] Acquired.

--No no, nothing is awakening okay.

The ceremony progressed while I complained to the title system in my mind.

"O miko of guidance, discard your worldly garment."

Two miko take off Sera's clothes.

She only had one piece on her just like me so it was over in an instant.

--Oooh.

She's grown quite nicely compared to the last time I saw her during the Golden Wild Boar King incident nearly two years ago.

It's quite a sight, but this is bad.

I put my spirit into concentrating the Poker Face skill and managed to prevent myself from breaking out a grin.

Of course, one part of my body is getting lively.

> [Body Control] Skill Acquired.

> Title [Unscrupulous] Acquired

> Title [Gentleman of Steel] Acquired

I'd like to know the reason for this timing, but for now I generously allocated the excess skill points I had on the [Body Control] skill I just got.

--Yup, quite a convenient skill.

Now I can continue the ceremony in relaxed state.

"O miko of guidance, show the king the way."

With the present head miko's signal, Sera open both her arms wide and hugged me.

This 'fuyoyon' sensation is quite wonderful.

--Oops, this was a holy rite wasn't it.

I put my everything to ward off my worldly desires and focus on the ceremony.

> Title [Unavaricious One] Acquired

> Title [Enlightened] Acquired

> [Lust Control] Skill Acquired

Convenient, I also activated the Lust Control skill.

> Title [Hermit] Acquired.

I have no interest in becoming a hermit so I probably should turn off Lust Control skill once this ceremony is over.

『--O God.』

Suddenly, I could hear Sera's words.

Not voice.

Her thought seemingly got transmitted to me through our touching skins.

> Title [Telepath] Acquired.

> Title [One who Communicates through Mind] Acquired.

> [Telepathy] Skill Acquired.

I have used Telepathy myself when Arisa became my familiar, or is that a different thing.

Oops, the ceremony might fail if I have unnecessary thoughts.

I turned off all the [AR] readings on my Menu to focus on the ceremony.

Lady Ringrande is in the Duchy Capital, while Hikaru and Liza are in the Royal Capital, they should be able to do something even in an emergency.

Besides, Arisa is with them too, familiar communication should be possible no matter what the situation is.

Sera looks up to the sky in my arms.

『O Great God who watches over us.』

A serene light falls down from the sky as if answering Sera's call.

It seems to contain some kind of power, it feels tingly when it touches my

body.

Sera who looked like she was in ecstasy turns expressionless.

She's probably entered trance state.

<<<AFFECTION>>><<<CHILD OF MAN>>><<<CONVEY>>><<<ANCIENT KING>>><<<WORDS>>><<<PETITION>>>.

Enumeration of words and images flowed through Sera to me.

It feels the same like when I heard oracle that fell from the sky back then.

I thought I had gotten Oracle skill but unfortunately the log didn't show it.

<<<CONVEY>>><<<ANCIENT KING>>><<<PETITION>>>.

Similar sounding phrases flowed again.

Is it okay to interpret this as "state your wish"?

Before that, I should greet her at least--.

『Nice to meet you, Tenion-sama. I'm Satou Pendragon.』

This ceremony is carried out with me as an [Ancient King], so I didn't use 'earl' and 'Marquis Muno's retainer' like I usually do.

<<<REJOICE>>><<<GOD>>><<<TENION>>>.

Waves that somehow felt gleeful came over.

Still, deciphering code while having a conversation is unexpectedly tiring.

--Come to think of it.

I recalled that there was [Decipher] skill in my skill list so I tried activating it.

<<<CONVEY>>><<<SATOU PENDRAGON>>><<<PETITION>>>.

It doesn't really change .

The only difference is that I could somehow understand the meaning.

『My wish is to have a conversation with Gods.』

<<<LAUGH>>><<<CONVERSATION>>><<<ALREADY>>>.

I guess she's laughing since we're already having a conversation?

The impression I got felt somewhat different than how they were during the divine punishment.

It seems God Tenion is a more affable god than I thought.

『I'd like to ask the reason why Gods prohibited science and technology and the extent of it.』

<<<UNINTELLIGIBLE>>><<<HEARSAY>>><<<REASON>>>.

It seems that either it couldn't get conveyed well, or that it was hard to understand what was conveyed, I think?

Indeed, it must be hard when even holding a conversation is this difficult.

Sera and other miko who have to decipher what they heard in the oracle and convey it to the statesmen sure have it hard.

--Wait a minute.

Sera and the others never mentioned that to me.

They told me about their experiences with oracles several times before, and they seemed like they were having a normal conversation.

I use mind magic and directly access Sera's mind.

If I did it normally, Sera's mind would break and she'd get crippled, but instead of invading her, I'm establishing a two-way mental bridge to try to make her Oracle skill into a sort of filter.

My view is dyed white the moment I'm connected with Sera.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



I'm floating in a white space brimming with light.

It's probably an image of mental world.

There's a lump of white light with a green outline shining brightly in front of me.

『If possible, I would love, to invite you, to the God's Realm....』

I could hear a voice coming from the light.

Apparently that white light with a green outline is God Tenion.

Intermittent, hard to hear radio-like voice continued on, but it's easier to understand compared to torrent-like images I got when there was no Oracle filter,.

I'll revise and correct it a bit in my brain.

『If that is possible, I would love to visit there myself.』

『My? I can understand your words all of a sudden.』

An image of lady laughing pleasantly was transmitted from the light.

Do I still need to go to the God's Realm if we can communicate this well?

『Would you mind if we get back on topic?』

『No, I don't mind. But let's make it brief. Before my dear miko's soul breaks.』

I've only noticed after God Tenion pointed it out, true, the burden must be high on Sera.

Let's get to the point as quickly as possible.

『I'd like to know the reason and the extent of science and technology prohibition by gods.』

『That's a classified information.』

Her line sounded like a certain time traveler from the future but there is no way that God Tenion knows about light novels. It must be a coincidence.

『I cannot tell it to people who are bound by limited lifespan.』

『No matter what?』

『That's right. If you really have to know no matter what, please come to the Garden of Gods in the God's Realm. And ask the Gods there.』

So it all depends on me whether I can get an answer or not huh?

『I understand. I will be excusing myself into the Garden of Gods then.』

I know the rough coordinates of the God's Realm from the marker I put on God Zaikuon.

Unit Arrangement can't do it, but but I think it's possible with World Teleportation using the enormous amount of mana obtained by the Void Sky Ether Furnace.

『Then I will assign a trial to Satou Pendragon. Obtain Gods Marks from the temples in this world.』

--I got an errand Quest after coming all the way here?

God Tenion giggles from the white light.

『This is the first time someone be that calm in front of a God.』

Come to think of it, since I'm mentally connected to Sera, my thought is grandly leaking out too huh.

『It's just as one would expect from someone acknowledged by that person.』

『That person?』

I asked what she meant by that but God Tenion only replied with an image of giggles.

I'd like to press her further, but I'm worried about Sera's body and soul.

She's probably talking about that mysterious [Little Girl in Painting] anyway, I should stop asking more about it.

『How would I obtain the marks?』

『Go towards each Central Temples.』

Central Temples huh.

I can ask head miko and the others about it.

『What should I do at the temples?』

『You will be assigned a trial by the God enshrined at each temple.』

In other words, I just need to clear each of their trials huh.

『What kind of trials are they?』

『That depends on the Gods who give them.』

Too bad, looks like I can't get any hint.

『However, it will likely be something to do with gathering piety.』

『Piety is it?』

I heard it as [Piety] through Sera's filter, but the image was like abstract noise with [Prayer] included within.

It feels like it includes prayers from people that aren't religious too.

『Yes, that's correct. We don't have enough divinity to protect the world because of the recent Divine Punishment. Piety from people that reach Gods turn into divinity that will become the shell that protects the world.』

『Shell is it?』

I wonder if it's a role of Gods that didn't get handed down amongst people?

I'll ask more about this when I visit the God's Realm.

『Please be mindful about order in your pilgrimage, some Gods are particular about ranks.』

--Guess that could put them in bad mood?

God Tenion gave an affirmation to the question I had in mind before I could said it.

『Could you tell me the ranks?』

Then, images of Gods got through me in turns.

Heraruon, Garleon, Urion, Zaikuon, Karion, Parion, that's the turn it seems.

『Karion and Urion aren't particular about ranks, but Urion will probably sulk if he's put after Zaikuon. And Karion might not like it if he's the last.』

<TLN: Their genders aren't specified in the raw.>

『How about Tenion-sama?』

『I will give my mark to you here.』

A small light split from God Tenion's light and got sucked into my palm.

There's no image of body here though, so it just somehow felt like I got it around mt palm.

>Title [Mark of Tenion] Acquired

>Title [One Acknowledged by Tenion] Acquired

>Title [Tenion's Saint] Acquired

『Do your best on the errand...』

God Tenion's white light goes away while giggling.



"You took a fancy to that phrase huh...."

That muttering came out of my own mouth.

Looks like my chance meeting with God Tenion is over.

The limp Sera is unconscious in my arms.

I fill the exhausted Sera with mana and stamina.

I check to see if there's anything wrong with Sera's soul using Soul Sight, Spirit Sight, and Miasma Sight.

It's in exhaustion but there's no obvious cracks or fissures.

She should get back to health if she takes it easy and recuperates.

"...Satou-san."

"I can't thank you enough. I was able to talk with God Tenion thanks to Sera-san."

"I'm so glad...."

I leave Sera who fell unconscious again in the other miko's care.

After entrusting the rest to the present head miko, I head to the head miko private room in the sanctuary along with miko apprentice Lily.

It seems like Lily is still using the room even now.

Even though there's probably no one who would eavesdrop us, I'll use space magic-made isolation barrier for counterintelligence here.

It may not be as strong as Goblin Princess Yuika's Unique Skill, but this barrier is strong enough that we wouldn't notice even if a nuclear bomb were to explode nearby.

"Were you able to speak with God Tenion?"

"Yes, I received a revelation to go on a pilgrimage to Central Temples that enshrine the Gods."

I talk about the Trials of Gods stuff to Lily.

"It's like the ancient hero king that appears in the myth isn't it."

That reminds me, there's a story about a hero that challenged the trial to become a familiar god of God Parion.

The talk wandered a bit, and then Lily told me about the countries where the Central Temples are located.

"All of them are in the western part of the continent huh."

"Yes, it is said that they evacuated to the west for their safety when Furu Empire was collapsing."

I see, there were Central Temples in Furu Empire, the largest country in the world at that time.

After getting the information I needed, I had a pleasant chat with Lily about the impression I got from my conversation with God Tenion as the topic.

"--Ara? It's this time already. Regretfully enough, senpai miko Hina would get mad at me if I don't get back soon."

As an apprentice miko, Lily said the name of a miko instructor and jokingly said, "She's really strict you know?"

I undo the space magic-made isolation barrier.

Then I heard quake-like vibrations and roaring sounds that sounded like collapsing buildings.

It appears that the Duchy Capital was under attack by someone with a really good timing.

I put the [Menu] skill's display back on.

Now then, it has been awhile, let us begin hero's time.

16-13. End of the Assailants (1)

※ From third person point of view

"Is that an airship? But it looks somewhat organic....."

"It's emitting such wicked presence. Do you know what that is Satou-san?"

Satou and miko apprentice Lily exchanged words while looking up from the terrace of Tenion temple.

Satou's AR shows it as, [<<Evil Float Ship>>].

"It seems to be a kind of ghost ship called Evil Float Ship."

In his mind, Satou recalled the ghost ship he fought in the Lalakie sea during the Divine Punishment.

Ghost ships have a peculiar type of sub-dimensional travel function called [Underworld Crossing], it probably made use of that to appear in the duchy capital.

(I got the reason why it didn't show up in my Map before the ceremony, but who and why did they attack the duchy capital?)

The Evil Float Ship continued its battle against the Duchy Capital army while Satou was lost in thought.

"Looks like the duchy capital army is putting up a good fight."

Lily muttered.

The Evil Float Ship's attack was blocked by the duchy castle's defensive wall.

On the other hand, none of the duchy capital army's attack could get through the Evil Float Ship's defensive wall either.

"--Ah."

Lily witnessed a high powered ray fired by the Evil Float Ship cutting a Wyvern Rider in two.

Satou clicked his tongue when he saw that.

"That ray is dangerous."

"What are you going to do?"

"I'm gonna go and neutralize it for a bit."

Satou thrusts his hand into the shadow on his feet and mixes it around.

At the same time, the Evil Float Ship's artillery that shot the ray was wrapped in black shadow.

"Alright, it should be fine now."

Lily looked up and the Evil Float Ship's artillery had disappeared.

"Amazing...."

Even while conversing with Lily, Satou is making use of [Magic Hand] and [Another World] to evacuate people who were located in places endangered by the Evil Float Ship.

The reason why Satou doesn't immediately get rid of the Evil Float Ship is

probably because he's looking for the one who sent the ship here.

"And the royal capital--Don't think there's anything threatening there."

Satou looked over the royal capital with space magic [Distant View].

He was wary about simultaneous terror attack on both places, but it seemed to be in vain.

(Looks like there was an accident during the fake Holy Shell Mobile Armor activation experiment, but it's impossible to rampage with that by hijacking it anyway, and Princess Shistina with her golems and Zena-san are there, they should be able to manage even if they're with Lady Karina.)

Just in case, Satou told the situation to Liza who was sparring with Shiga Eight Swords in one corner of the royal castle through space magic [Telephone].

He also gave instructions to the intelligence division of Echigoya Firm and Chuu Fat and the other mice.

The Evil Float Ship was enveloped in tremendous explosions before their eyes.

"That was from the Duchy castle wasn't it."

"Yes, that was Ringrande-sama's attack magic."

A huge robot that looks exactly like the Holy Shell Mobile Armor is standing on the bow of the Evil Float Ship whose armor has been stripped off.

Satou muttered quietly, [Dynast].



--I've got to stop it.

Ringrande who's riding on a small airship is overlooking the huge aerial warship with a flustered face.

The light shining from the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's chest, which has enough power to bring in ruin, is still trying to destroy the duchy castle.

The divine weapon bestowed by Gods to the Lalakie Kingdom that once thrived in a floating island--[Damnation Cannon] is attempting to demonstrate its full power here.

The dazzling light is flickering unstably.

--Her chant won't make it.

Ringrande's eyes could only see that flickering as an omen before the firing.

Even while staring straight at death, the only thing she can do is chanting a magic to oppose it.

She can only hope her father, the territory lord's proxy who holds the power of City Core, could block an attack from the [Damnation Cannon].

A sudden change happened to such a hopeless situation.

"--The light disappeared?"

The brownie in pilot uniform who was steering the airship muttered.

The light on the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's chest has disappeared.

If someone who holds the power to see mana were here, they would undoubtedly notice an abnormal amount of mana loss from the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's chest.

It's as if someone drained its mana.

"....■ <<Divine Explosion>>!"

Ringrande's advanced explosion magic pulverized the rear engine of the Evil Float Ship.

Several black shadows jumped off of the quickly descending ship, and lastly, the Holy Shell Mobile Armor took up a spear-like thing.

『RIIIIIIIIIINGRANDEEEEEEEEEEE』

It cried out through the external speaker, and then the Holy Shell Mobile Armor made a leap off of the falling Evil Float Ship toward the small airship Ringrande was riding.

"Choiyaa!"

Just before the armor could grab the airship, it made a turn like a fighter jet.

It was an intense maneuver unthinkable of the slow moving airships of this world.

"I-I'm going to fall!"

The one riding on the airship doesn't think that it's a safe move to do however.

Ringrande ended up having to cling on to the handrail with her dear life in order to not get thrown off the airship.



"I-it's demons!"

"Send the golem unit forward!"

"All hands, retreat while holding them back!"

The short horn demons that jumped out of the Evil Float Ship surprised the anti-aircraft unit of the Duchy Capital army.

The golem unit battled with the short horn demons, but the agile demons overwhelmed them and quickly got on heels of the retreating unit.

The burning trees that fell from the Evil Float Ship's bombardment blocked their escape route.

"I will hold them off here!"

"We're no match for them even if they're lesser demons. I won't let anyone die in vain!"

"However, if this keeps up--"

A youth who had reached level 20 spoke of a heroic line, but the well experienced unit commander stopped him.

In the middle of the youth speech, the commander was pulled away by an ape-like short horn demon.

"Commander!"

--GROROROLWN.

The youth pulled out his mithril alloy sword to come to the rescue, but the short horn demon extended its arm and flung him away.

"--■■■ Drag Ignis"

A dragon of flame appeared while smashing the burning fallen trees and hit the short horn demon while scattering explosive flames around.

The commander who was pulled in also got burned but he was already mortally wounded.

"Just when I chased a fool who rampaged with the legacy of his Majesty that should have been sealed, reincarnated demons huh... And there's even Yamato's legacy."

A black clothed alchemist with a covered up face showed up from behind a fallen tree.

--GROROROLWN.

"Hmph, figured it won't die from one shot--"

The black clothed alchemist drew a sword on his waist.

"This sword is too good for you, but..."

--GROROROLWN.

The dying short horn demon charged toward the muttering alchemist.

"Perish, you grave robber."

A blue gust of wind flashed, and the being that was a short horn demon disappeared into black mist.

"Holy sword?"

"Hero-sama? It's Hero Nanashi-sama!"

The retreating unit forgot to escape and clamored.

"Hero huh... How ironic."

The alchemist looks at the coming crowd of short horn demons while laughing sarcastically.

"--Leave. ■■■■■■■■■..."

The soldiers retreat, leaving the alchemist who has begun a ranged attack magic chant.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

『RIIIIIIIIIINGRANDEEEEEEE』

A two-pronged spear in the Holy Shell Mobile Armor hand was thrust at the small airship Ringrande was riding on.

Light buckshots that shot out of the spear tips exploded near the small airships.

"I can't shoot my magic! Stabilize the hull just a bit more!"

"It's impossible!"

The small airships slips through gap between the tiny explosions with acrobatic maneuvers.

"If we're too far away, my magic won't reach--then."

"Ri-Ringrande-sama?"

Ringrande jumped off of the airship.

She was free falling for a short while before her falling speed slowed down.

"I'm glad I got it from Hayato."

Running in the sky with the Flight Shoes, she approaches the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

『RIIIIIIIIIINGRANDEEEEEEE』

"Sheesh, can't you say anything else?"

She fired [Quick Burst] that could be chanted quickly at the head of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor that was taking the action to attack as a distraction, and closed the distance more.



『Kukkukku... spread your struggle, hatred and fear, breed the miasma necessary for his majesty's resurrection』

Deep in a jet black darkness, a man in purple costume standing in front of a floating mirror muttered.

The mirror reflects the figures of Ringrande who's fighting with the Holy Shell Mobile Armor.

White mist is coiling about around the man, sometimes something that resembles an anguished face floats in the white mist.

『Well that objective is more mundane than I thought.』

A voice that came not from the man resounded in the jet black darkness.

『--Who is it. You who speak with the language of the great orc kingdom, show yourself.』

The one who appeared before the man was a slender boy wearing a purple wig and a white mask.

『That mask, you're!!』

『Nice to meet you, mastermind-san--』

The masked hero bowed like a stage actor.



"GWAAAAA"

Ringrande who was hit hard by the two pronged spear got slapped onto the arena's ground.

Even though the force of the blow was enough to carve out a trench on the arena's ground, Ringrande still retained her fighting spirit.

Ringrande tried to get up, but the two pronged spear pierced the ground on both her sides, pressing on and holding her back.

".■■ Quick Burst."

The spell Ringrande chanted while coughing blood disappeared after only leaving a small light explosion.

『What's wrong, ran out of mana?』

A sane sounding voice that made the mad voice earlier seemed like a lie resounded from the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's external speaker.

A hatch on the throat of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor opened slightly, and the aged face of the third prince Sharlick peeked out from there.

"That face..."

Ringrande expressed her surprise to see the prince's face.

"I will ask you this only once."

The triumphant third prince Sharlick said so while looking down on Ringrande.

"Yield to me and give birth to the king of the next era."

"I refuse."

Ringrande flat out refused the third prince Sharlick.

"...What. How foolish can you be, Ringrande!"

The third prince's Sharlick's face convulsed and warped.

"I will destroy every single country in this age of strife once. And I am the only one who is capable of uniting all the lower class people in this turbulent time to create an empire that covers the entire continent. Do you mean to say that you

have a problem becoming the wife of such greatness!"

Ringrande isn't answering the third prince Sharlick who rattled on with bloodshot eyes.

She's fully concentrating everything to recover her mana.

"No, you cannot possibly have any complaint. I will make you, who was discarded after becoming the hero's plaything and missed your chance to marry, into my sex consort, not concubine. You cannot possibly be dissatisfied with that!"

Ringrande's eyes were filled with rage.

She wasn't lenient enough to overlook words that made a mockery of the too stoic Hero Hayato.

Ringrande twisted her restrained body and took out a ring from her pouch.

It's a cursed item that can change life force into mana she found in the Blooduscking Labyrinth with Hero Hayato.

She has never used it since it has a fatal weakness of producing mana to the point of exhausting your entire life force.

"Oh I see now! You must be hesitating! No need to hesitate! I, the great king of the world, forgive you. Ringrande, become my empress!"

Third prince Sharlick feverishly shouted out loud words filled with love--nay, obsession.

"I refuse!"

Ringrande wore the ring and shouted.

"Wha, what--it can't be--why."

Third prince Sharlick's face distorted in shock.

"Because I hate you of course! Be reborn anew and make a fresh start! ■■ Quick Burst!"

Ringrande's explosion magic burst from the gap of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's cockpit.

"GWAAAAAAAAA"

White smoke and smell of burning meat leak out of the gap, and then the cockpit shuts off.

"DIEEEEEEEEE"

Mana congregated into the two-pronged spear, and a vestige of light ball was produced in front of Ringrande's eyes.

She could break out if she struggled, but that would likely take time.

"--■■■ Drag Ignis"

The flame dragon that hit the armpit of the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's arm that held the spear spread explosive flames around.

Since the armor's hand got separated from the spear, the light that was going to roast Ringrande disappeared.

"Good grief.... Here I went to find out the identity of the fool who brought the

Evil Float Ship here, and what I got was just a lover's quarrel, what a waste of time."

A black clothed alchemist showed up in the arena ground along with a heat haze.

"I can't really agree to that, but thank you for your help regardless."

"No need for thanks."

Blue light flashed, and then the two pronged spear turned into round slices.

"This sharpness is as absurd as always."

"Holy sword?"

"Correct. It's a blade to fell any evil given to me by my friend."

The magic artillery on the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's arms, and the [Divine Punishment Cannon] on its chest are clad with mana.

Ringrande and the black clothed alchemist run off to look for a cover.

"Can you fight that?"

"I cannot."

The black clothed alchemist concisely replied to Ringrande.

The Holy Shell Mobile Armor's triple weapons are filled with red light.

"That's Yamato's anti-demon magic weapon that can even wrestle against greater demon. It's the strongest and worst weapon created by the mad magic engineers of Furu Empire--it cannot be defeated by ordinary men."

The alchemist spoke as if it was none of his business.

White and red light behind them are approaching critical.

The cover they're running toward to is still far away, and even if they arrive in time, they don't think it would be strong enough to block the super weapons behind them.

Ringrande is convinced of her death when she feels the burning heat on her

back.

"--Thus, I leave the rest to you."

"OK."

The light and heat behind them disappeared with that easygoing voice.

Ringrande turned around and saw the Holy Shell Mobile Armor who had lost its mana falling prostrate to the ground, and purple haired Hero Nanashi floating in the air before it.

"Heya, Ga Hou, did you come to help?"

"I just came across grave robbers who rampaged around with his majesty's legacy that should have been sealed."

The Holy Shell Mobile Armor's hatch opened, and a dark purple figure showed up from there.

Hero Nanashi didn't even need to turn around as the figure got slapped onto the arena's ground.

"I found youuuuuuuuuuu! You fake hero who stole my holy sword!"

"The one controlling it was the third prince huh."

Hero Nanashi looks below on the third prince who soul crushingly cried out.

"And, since when were you a demon?"

Hero Nanashi's line of sight was directed at the long horn on the third prince's forehead.

"The king who rules over the world needs a body that transcends humanity!"

"But your body is crumbling, is that alright?"

Black mist coils around the third prince's body as it's crumbling down.

The crumbling fragments disappear into black mist.

"T-this can't be..."

His body is crumbling from the ends of his limbs.

"No, no, I am, the ruler... of the world..."

Ringrande's mana clad magic sword destroys the third prince before he crumbled completely.

That might have been her mercy.

"So, I see that there's a clown behind you, did you catch the mastermind?"

"Un, I did catch the mastermind who directly perpetrated this."

Hero Nanashi pulls a purple clothed man restrained with magic sealing ivy out of a shadow and throws him to the ground.

"Don't tell me--"

Ga Hou tore off the hood that covered the purple clothed man's face.

What showed up was a face of a corpse rotten to the core.

There's a twisted horn on its forehead.

『--Zo Gil.』

『Is that you Ga Hou?』

Ga Hou's face grimaced to see a familiar face under the hood.

A face of pity and grief to see a former colleague who got called back as an undead and been reborn as a greater demon with Twisted Demon Horn.

『What would be the reason for you, the one entrusted to command the entire army of his majesty, to lay waste on his majesty's grave.』

『Is there any other reason than for the second coming of his majesty.』

『You fool... You think his majesty would wish to be revived as a demon lord.』

It's probably the difference in perception between someone who died before the final battle and someone who survived through it.

『To rebuild Orc Empire on this land--that is his majesty's wish!』

『Who told you that?』

Hero Nanashi smoothly asked Zo Gil who vigorously shouted out.

『His majesty demon lord who stands equal to his majesty, goblin--』

Zo Gil's head blew off in the middle of his words.

It must be a delayed magic that would activate if he were about to say a certain word.

Hero Nanashi traces the vestige of magic that not only revived him as an undead but also destroyed a being that had turned into a greater demon.

"Zo Gil..."

Ga Hou gave a silent prayer to the body of his old friend that was disappearing into black mist.

"So the one who assaulted the duchy capital was the demons after all?"

"Yup, you're right. I wasn't able to reel them in, but our opponent appears to be one of the demon lords."

Hero Nanashi replied to Ringrande.

However, Hero Nanashi didn't speak the fact that the [Goblin] word Zo Gil left behind might be referring to the [Goblin King].

(From this matter, I see that they haven't given up on their schemes and get to know one of the elusive sources of this.)

Hero Nanashi--Satou is exploring for solutions in his mind.

"Nin nin~?"

A golden ninja wearing pink mantle showed up from the shadow on his feet.

"Pick up~?"

Satou joined hands with the golden ninja and returned to the royal capital using Unit Arrangement.

Apparently, something happened in the royal capital.

16-14. End of the Assailants (2)

Satou here. There's this saying, "The mountains have brought forth a mouse", but I think it's better than them bringing forth a major volcanic eruption. I mean, going on a pleasure trip in peaceful times is more fun.

<TLN: The saying means approximately like 'much ado about nothing'.>



"Arisa!"

I went with Tama using Unit Arrangement and jumped into the place she led me to.

"Master... I'm, sorry..."

"Pull yourself together."

I take Arisa's small hand as she muttered weakly and put my forehead on hers.

--Hot.

"You're burning."

According to AR, it's not influenza, but a cold--looks like she's gotten a common cold.

"Geez, why'd you bath under the waterfall until you got a cold..."

"I'm sowwy."

Lulu who came carrying a rice gruel scolded Arisa.

I see, I get the reason Arisa caught the cold.

"Yaay, rice gruel with sweet potatoes."

Rather than the sweet potato she knows, it's a local product of Seryuu Earldom.

"Master, feed me."

Arisa is acting spoiled, perhaps the fever got her hard.

Well, I guess I can at least spoil her when she's down with a cold.

"Aan, so good. It tastes like Master's love."

Arisa's jokes don't stop even while she's coughing.

It makes me worry that she's getting delirious from her fever.

When I reflexively turned my gaze around, I saw the youth troupe assembled on Arisa's bedside.

"Aan."

"Aan, nanodesu."

"Tama too~?"

That reminds me, my little sister also demanded for the "Aan" from our mom when I was down with a fever before I went to school.

"I'm feeding Arisa right now, so later--"

I noticed something halfway through.

I look around the room.

--Thought so.

"Arisa, you didn't take the magic medicine for treating illness did you?"

I forgot about it since cold was a common illness in the former world.

With the magic medicines and magic available in this world, it can be cured in an instant.

"Eh? Err, I only had elixirs with me, so I thought it would be too wasteful to use one."

Arisa replied me while coughing.

The coughing timing somewhat feels suspicious.

"Then how about Mia's water magic?"

"Was refused."

I turned to Mia, and she shook her head while making an x sign with her arms.

"I mean, you know! Mia came back way after I got down with the cold, and I thought I would get better if I just drank water, ate rice gruel and slept--"

"Even the brownies in this room could use magic to heal a simple cold right?"

"Ugwuu."

Arisa faltered in the middle of her excuse.

Why would she go to sleep while still afflicted with the cold anyway?

"D-dat's..."

"It will be easier if you just confess nodesu."

Pochi urged Arisa while imitating a veteran detective who pressed someone to confession.

"I just wanted to have a nursing play with masteeeeeeeeer"

"Play?"

"Arisa..."

Next to Arisa who shouted with all her soul, Mia who couldn't understand it tilted her head to the side, and Lulu who understood it muttered her little sister's name while blushing.

"Rejected."

When I rejected her, Arisa muttered, "And it was the perfect chance to have a nursing play with the too healthy Master too"

Yup, Arisa should reflect on it a bit.

"Private Pochi."

"Aye!"

"Administer the household medicine used in the orphanages to private Arisa."

"Yes nanodesu. This one nodesu?"

"Yes, that one."

I gave the confirmation to Pochi who took the medicine out of her magic bag.

"--Suppository!"

Arisa screamed when she saw the thing Pochi took out.

"I'd like to refrain from that thank you."

"It's okay nanodesu. It won't hurt nodesu."

"No no, it's not about whether it hurts or not."

"Don't worry nodesu. Pochi is a suppository pro nanodesu."

"You'll break a maiden's heart!"

Arisa inched back in the bed while Pochi was approaching with an evil look on her face.

"A-at least, I'd like Master to be the one putting it in--"

"Arisa, you shouldn't act spoiled nanodesu."

"Uoo, I can't teleport? Master sealing teleportation is--"

I went out of the room with Mia while hearing Arisa's scream behind us.

I'll let Lulu handle the rest.



"Satou-san!"

"Satou, welcome back."

Zena-san and princess Sistina greeted me when I returned to the living room in the solitary island palace.

I have to tell the passing of her brother of different mother, third prince Sharlick, to princess Sistina, but let's put off that for later.

It felt like she was indifferent toward the third prince after all.

"It appears there was an accident in the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's hangar, did anyone get hurt?"

"N-no. We aren't hurt anywhere. But, err--"

Zena-san who stammered her words awkwardly sent her gaze to the corner of the room.

There's Lady Karina who turns her face away while looking small there.

She probably messed up at something again.

"Would you tell me what happened?"

"Yes, allow me."

Princess Sistina begins to narrate what happened.

"It all happened when we were visiting the hangar--"

Someone stole the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's pilot suit, the mobile armor, and tried to hijack [General].

The fairly successful hijacker who boarded the Holy Shell Mobile Armor, swung the already booted-up armor's arm, and destroyed the scaffold and supporting frames around it, causing panic in the hangar.

The researchers who were about to be crushed under the collapsing scaffold were saved by Lady Karina's intense actions, but since Zena-san and princess Sistina seemed like they had forced smiles when they talked about it, I should take it with a grain of salt.

Her saving them is probably true, but she must have messed up at something.

"『Bizarre humanoids made of wreckage and steel beams』?"

Golems made of rubble that rose up from the wreckage and cloud of dust gathered and beat the researchers to death.

"That's weird. I've put the function to create servant golems like the original in the fake, yes, however I've programmed it so that they are forbidden to kill..."

Servant golems was a function relevant during the wars, so I had programmed them with Three Laws of Robotics built-in.

"Yes, Mito-sama also hypothesized that they might be familiars created by a lesser demon."

Looks like the one behind the incident here were demons too.

The root is probably the same as the one from Duchy Capital.

"Now that you mention it, where's Mito?"

"She said that something else might happen there, so she's on stand by along with Liza-san in the capital."

Then I'll go see how they're doing later.

"May I continue?"

"Yes, if you please."

The rubble golems were dealt with by princess Sistina's golems, while Zena-san was dealing with the Holy Shell Mobile Armor's hijacker.

As Zena-san was chanting advanced magic after her lower class ones proved ineffective, apparently, that was when Lady Karina blew away the steel frames and re-joined the frontline.

"So it was surprised by Lady Karina and tumbled over?"

The hijacker seemed to be a dullard.

Well, even if he made a run with the armor, without the [Real Activation Key] I gave to the king, it wouldn't be able to enter flight mode or high-mobility mode, nor could it fire any weapons, he probably would have ended up getting caught by the Shiga Eight Swords and Hikaru in the end.

"So, did you manage to catch that hijacker?"

"Yes, my golems dragged out the mobile armor and Zena-san arrested the man who tried to run away."

The hijacker seemed to be the page fired by the first prince back then, who was also a former employee of the third prince.

Well, they were probably trying to cause something in the capital while that man created a diversion as a throwaway piece.

Hikaru is probably staying with Liza in the capital because she came to the same conclusion.

"You two did great."

When I praised the two, Lady Karina's mood got even gloomier in the corner of the room.

Apparently, she feels bad for being the only one who did nothing great.

I walk to Lady Karina.

"Karina-sama."

"....Satou"

When I called to her, she buried her face into her own breast after a slight reaction.

--As expected of demonic breasts.

"Looks like you saved the researchers."

"That's all I did desuwa..."

Looks like the optimistic Lady Karina is currently in a rare self-loathing phase.

"That's not true at all, or are you dissatisfied that you 'only' saved people's life?"

Lady Karina raised her face with a startled look.

Her reaction resembled Pochi somehow.

"Moreover, we were only able to recapture the Holy Shell Mobile Armor without breaking it thanks to Lady Karina's actions."

Regardless of who the other party was, the fact is the matter was able to be concluded quickly thanks to her actions.

"Satou"

Lady Karina is looking up at me with moist eyes.

She looks like a girl in love, so I'm not sure how to react here.

"Mission complete~?"

"Suppository complete nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi appeared from the door.

Arisa's punishment--administering is done it seems.

Alright, I'll let Pochi who's close to Lady Karina to take care of her.

I beckoned Pochi and entrusted her care to her.

Lady Karina whose arms were wide open was frozen with a taken aback look on her face, but I left the place while pretending not to notice that.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Hikaru."

"Ichirou-nii."

I teleported next to Hikaru who was sitting on top of a Royal Castle's spire.

From what I gather on the Map, I don't see anyone like demons, or reincarnated people nor unknown high level people.

The sage mice, Chuu Fat and his colony hasn't reported any abnormality either.

Liza is standing with one leg on top of another spire, doing a quiet stance training like a master martial artist.

"I found Dynast in the Duchy Capital."

"You did?"

Hikaru stood up suddenly with a serious look on her face.

"That one is different from General. It's an absurd armor that could fight against a demon lord if it could keep its distance. We've got to think up a plan to--"

Hikaru spoke vehemently without listening to me.

It got quiet after I smashed its defensive barrier, shot out the magic circuit on its core and drained its mana.

Fighting it at close proximity was probably a wise decision.

"Everything's fine, Hikaru."

"Un, I believe in Ichirou-nii. But, Dynast's 『Damnation Cannon』 is--"

"I've neutralized and retrieved it with me here."

"--Eh?"

Hikaru froze still with a serious look and then she quickly sighed in relief.

"I'm so glad. I expected nothing less from Ichirou-nii."

"Let's contact Yuika, and then offer him a proper burial like with General on the right day."

"Un, please."

I stayed here for a while, and then went back to the Duchy capital alone.

I can tell my conversation with God Tenion to everyone once Arisa is cured from her cold.



"Satou-san, is it over?"

"Yes, without problem."

When I got to Tenion Temple entranceway, the former head miko, currently miko apprentice Lily was waiting for me.

--Oh?

A blue dot on my Radar is coming here from the Duchy Castle area.

Ga Hou the orc has returned to his base through the sewer, so this one's probably Lady Ringrande.

Since she's with white dots, maybe they're going around to see the Duchy capital's state?

"They look to be quite in a hurry."

"--Yes."

A group of cavalry knights who rushed in like they were jousting stopped at the entrance of Tenion Temple.

The horses that have stopped upright look quite imposing.

"The miko over there! Call the temple head and Sera-sama!"

One of the knights haughtily gave an order to miko apprentice Lily.

"Yes."

Miko apprentice Lily obediently run into the temple to call the two.

Behind him, Lady Ringrande who didn't look well was helped by the other knights to get down from the horse.

"Ringrande-sama?"

"Sa-Satou."

Lady Ringrande is in critical condition for some reason.

But she seemed fine when she was chasing the Holy Shell Mobile Armor [Dynast] earlier, wonder what happened?

"Are you alright?"

"I'm running out of time. Take me to Sera."

"I understand."

I receive Lady Ringrande from the knights who looked dissatisfied and head to Sera's resting room.

She's in [State: Weakened (Serious)] according to AR reading, her health gauge has almost run out.

"Did something happen?"

"Yep, I used a little something I shouldn't have used."

I saw Ringrande's gaze turned toward her left ring finger for an instant.

It seems to be a type of [Cursed Ring] according to AR reading.

Apparently, it's an artifact from a dungeon that will continue to convert your life force into mana even after it's full.

According to the detailed info on it, recovery magic and health recovery magic potion won't work while it's in effect.

"Ringrande-sama, Sera-sama is currently resting inside this room."

I could only hear a very faint sound from Lady Ringrande, probably because

her health had been exhausted.

The other knights were going to come too, but I kept them away by telling them that I couldn't let Sera, an unmarried woman, in her nightdress be exposed.

I close the door with a thud.

The sleeping Sera is the only one in this room, so let's do this.

"--Fracture."

I touched Lady Ringrande's cursed ring and then it crumbled away like a rusted ring.

This saves time from dealing with a cursed item, no complain please.

The health reduction has stopped after the ring is destroyed, but she's been terribly weakened already.

"Ringrande-sama, please drink this."

I push an elixir bottle on her mouth, but she's already lost consciousness and can't drink it.

I put the elixir in my mouth and make Lady Ringrande drink it mouth-to-mouth.

It's just a treatment and the impregnable fortress pairs shouting [Guilty] aren't looking, so this should be fine.

The AR reading indicates that Lady Ringrande's health gauge has been safely refilled.

"...Satou-san?"

I heard a half-asleep voice of Sera from the bed.

"--Ane-sama!"

I used [Magic Hand] to catch Sera who tried to get up from the bed and almost fell from her anemia.

Since it didn't look like she saw me giving the mouth-to-mouth, I told her about the attack on Duchy Capital, and how Lady Ringrande used a cursed item to avert the crisis, resulting in her critical state.

"Ane-sama is always like that. She always goes straight forward with only the goal in mind....."

Sera is brushing Lady Ringrande's hair who's still unconscious.

Even though she sounded like she couldn't believe her, it seems like she doesn't truly hate her.

"I was able to converse with God Tenion thanks to Sera-san. I'll tell you the details along with the other girls once we get back to the Solitary Island Palace."

"Yes, I'm glad to be of service."

I told Sera what needs to be told while Lady Ringrande was still unconscious.

"We will leave the duchy capital tomorrow morning. You should get some rest in Tenion Temple today."

"Yes."

Since I won't have anything to do tonight, let's go to Ga Bou's place and have some drink there.

--Satou-san."

Sera beckons me as I stand up.

That's a rare gesture from Sera.

"Please do the mouth-to-mouth to me too when I'm injured okay."

Surprised, I look at Sera's face and she looks back at me like a child who's succeeded in her prank.

It was really scary since her eyes weren't laughing.

16-15. New Journey

Satou here. I learned the word 'Quest' from games. Back then, they were small events that could be started anytime you want, but recently there have been quests that can happen unexpectedly and can be missed out. I'm looking forward as to what kind of quests will be added next.



"Eeh, isn't that a fetch quest."

"Yeah, God Tenion laughed about it too."

Once Arisa had gotten over her cold, I gathered everyone for a debriefing session.

"Hmm, that's kinda different from my image of gods."

Arisa knitted her eyebrows with a complicated look on her face.

"Also, I thought gods could only speak in broken speech."

"Was it like that when you were reincarnating, Arisa?"

The former depressed demon lord, Shizuka who happened to come by asked Arisa.

"Un, I mean, rather than broken speech, it was more like images with overlapping meanings."

"Then it's the same as me. Yuika told me before that it was the same for her too."

Looks like Shizuka and Goblin Princess Yuika knew each other.

Maybe they get along well since both are shut-in type with high girl powers.

"It was like that with me too at first. I guess I was only able to hold a proper conversation thanks to Sera-san?"

"I've done nothing much. --Perhaps this is what they call the fruits of wife's labor."

Sera who was sitting next to me with a composed face clung to my arm and

leaned her head on it.

""AAH!""

"Guilty"

Seeing that, Arisa, Hikaru, Lady Karina and Core Two shouted out, Mia who dressed like a female teacher got on my lap and declared my conviction.

Hikaru who had been looking down seems to have sorted out her feelings after we buried Dynast in the graveyard with General, she's been looking more cheerful for the past few days.

Apparently, the reason why I rarely saw the external exploration unit of dungeon core, Core Two, around here lately was because she had gotten addicted to collecting seashells on the rocky area of the coast here.

I'm not sure what she finds fun about it, but it seems like the fact that we've been having lots of shellfish dishes lately is thanks to her.

Additionally, Lulu and Zena-san are silently staring at Sera with an envious look on their faces.

Tama and Pochi have been playing around by rolling below the sofa I'm sitting on since awhile ago. They must have gotten bored with the difficult topic.

"Sera-sama, getting all clingy in front of many people is unbecoming."

Princess Sistina rebuked Sera with a calm expression.

Arisa and Mia exchanged words, "Gununu, legal wife's character?", "Negative, number one."

"Please excuse me. We were doing this everyday back at the Duchy Capital, it turned into a habit."

Sera dropped a bombshell.

She's telling the truth, but those were instances of Sera trying to peel Lady Ringrande who was getting all clingy off me in a fit of jealousy and ending up clinging on me.

Lady Ringrande was probably sticking to me to tease Sera, it's not like she's harboring feeling to me--I think.

"Satou, hierarchy is important. Fulfill your duty to Mito-sama and me before

you lose Sera-sama's temptation."

"--Duty?"

Hikaru tilted her head at Princess Sistina's words.

By duty, does she mean the nobles' duty to have children?

But we aren't even married, she's jumping the gun here.

"Hold it right theeeeeere!"

Arisa pushed her hand out and shouted.

"Our turns come first! Lulu, me, Mia, Aze-tan have it reserved already!"

"Objection. Fiancee first."

"Tama too~"

"Pochi will be Master's wife too nodesu!"

The youth troupe jumped in with Arisa's words.

Yup, do your best to make it indefinite.



"That reminds me, Mito, what happened when you were summoned as a hero? You met God Parion right?"

"Eh? Right, it was like the voices of gods I heard during the Divine Punishment back then. I think it's probably the same as Arisa and the others."

Apparently, God Parion mediated the summoning when Saga Empire summoned Hikaru as a hero.

Come to think of it--.

A god, or perhaps, a god's familiar, the [Little Girl in Painting] talked normally.

"Hika--Mito, you said that you were stopped by your patron god when you were about to go back to earth right? Was it the same with the patron god?"

"Hn? Ame-no-Mizuhana-hime talked like a normal person would."

Wonder what's with that difference?

"Isn't it because the gods here are of greater existences? It's like the dimension we are in differs from theirs so we can't communicate properly?"

Arisa laid out her guess.

That's a common setting of gods that appear in SF.

They kinda feel worldly for beings of higher order though.

"Did God Parion look like a purple light thing that floated in a white space?"

"The reincarnation god looked like that? I met God Parion in a temple-like place. She looked like a statue of little girl made of light blue crystal, like it was just a statue, you see."

"Hmm, Hayato said that she was a cute little girl, seems like she looks different depending on the person."

I see, I wasn't really interested in the pantheon so I never asked before, but it appears that the image wildly differs depending on the person.

Perhaps, gods will look like the image a person has about god?



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Master, you're going to take us along in the God's Trials right?"

Acting as the representative of the girls, Arisa asked me.

"Sorry, but I'm going to take the trials alone."

"No you can't! We don't know what will happen, you know? It's dangerous to do it alone!"

Arisa beat the desk and insisted.

I'm doing it alone precisely because it's dangerous.

"It's alright. Arisa will come to save me if it gets dangerous won't you? By way of, you know, familiar power."

I persuaded Arisa who 'gununu'ed and looked unconvinced.

"Please leave it to me. If Master orders for it, I will pierce even gods with this Dragon Spear."

"Deity slash~?"

"Are gods bad kids nanodesu? You can't cut good gods nanodesuyo?"

Pochi was being unusually reasonable at Liza and Tama who were in high spirits.

"Don't worry about that, I'm not planning to go to war with gods.."

Sera who looked troubled and Zena-san and Lady Karina who believed in gods normally looked relieved.

I'm prepared for it if the other party intends to go through it though.

By recycling the code from Arisa's anti-god forbidden spell of space magic [Mythology Down], I have developed a spirit magic called [Mythology Eater] in the form of a platinum-colored great wolf artificial spirit for Mia to command.

Additionally, I've coated Pochi's holy sword, Tama's ninja katana, and Nana's great sword with fine powder made from dragon fang using Weasel Empire's technology.

I got this fine powder when Tama and Pochi were visiting Fujisan Mountain where the Heavenly Dragon was together with Hikaru.

Who would have thought that you would get hold of materials for strengthening weapons by doing some dental care.

Lulu's acceleration gun's bullets have also been coated with the aforementioned powder.

"You have to really call me if it seems dangerous okay? There's no miracle like in manga where the protagonist suddenly awakens to his hidden power and turns the tide around, you hear?"

Arisa confirmed me again worryingly.

I have two of those [Hidden Power], that look like it could awaken, in mind, but I don't think it would suddenly become usable so timely like that, thus I think exhausting all possible options and human resources beforehand is imperative since we're facing someone that might take an aggressive position.

I've got to complete my own trump card too before we depart for the trials.

"I got it. Besides, I'm only going alone during the trials. Liza and Nana will accompany me right until the trials, and we will be touring the foreign lands with everyone once the trial is over."

"Understood."

"I will definitely protect Master's safety, so I announce."

Apparently many of the countries' cultures on the continent west are left over from Furu Empire era, I'm sure we will find a lot of delicious food and unusual stuff there.

The other girls voiced their dissatisfaction, but they consented when I told them that I would be fine as I would have Team Pendragon's strongest spear and shield with me.

I had no problem having Zena-san who's thorough on everything around, but if I took her along, Lady Karina and Sera would likely follow too so I didn't include her in the end.

In this journey, there is a chance of gods making use of Arisa and Hikaru who carry God's Fragment in them and Sera who has Oracle skill as a back door to peep on us, so I have decided not to take them along after consulting with Arisa and Hikaru.

It goes without saying that the shut-in inclined demon lord Shizuka never seems interested in going from the start, so she's outside of the consideration.

"Oh right, Nezu-san started to say something else besides, 『I want to go home』."

That Shizuka said something like it was nothing big.

"By Nezu-san, you means the person who was the rat demon lord?"

"Yes, that one."

Rat demon lord was the person who was too attached to Japan and got his Soul Vessel broken after over-using his Unique Skill.

After removing his God's Fragments, I managed to somehow recover his flesh and Soul Vessel with elixir and mind magic, but his mind was shut-down, so I let him live in one corner of the sub-dimension where Shizuka lived and had the brownies take care of him.

"It looks like his heart was healed while he was taking care of Hamsaemon."

"Hamsaemon, hamster? That's so simple~"

Arisa stole a glance at me.

Yeah, I don't have naming sense too.

"Ahaha, it's a squirrel."

"Eh?"

"That Hamsaemon is a squirrel that Nezu-san picked up in the forest."

"But why!"

Leaving aside Arisa's retort, I'm glad that Nezu-shi seems to be recovering.

It might be a good idea to take him along to earth if he's fine with a world that

isn't exactly identical.

Additionally, the former sword demon lord, fox girl is spending her days training with the green infant dragon and black dragon Heiron at the Black Dragon Mountains.

I visited her from times to times with Liza and her sword skill looked even more skillful than in her demon lord's days.



"I'm planning to go to the western part of the continent for a bit."

"Western part of the continent--"

Tourism minister is my job for once, so I've come here to tell the king and the prime minister about my planned trip.

"The next salvation is coming to the west it seems."

"As expected of the Dragon Avatar, he's very sensitive to the smell of battlegrounds."

The king and the prime minister muttered in whispers.

Looks like both of them have firmly determined that Satou's identity is [Dragon Avatar].

"Your excellency, I heard rumors that the west was in disarray due to the Divine Punishment, is it still continuing even today?"

"Umu, the confusion from monsters have been calmed down thanks to the heroes dispatched by Saga Empire, however, even heroes cannot do anything about the devastated countries. Disputes in the scramble for grain-producing regions have begun to appear in the continent west."

I don't plan to get involved with faraway countries, but if I see that the scale of the famine looks bad in my journey, I won't hesitate to lend a hand.

Preserved food made from alga, mass produced in the automatic factory have been accumulated enough to feed the entire population of Japan, there should be no problem sharing a bit here.

"Will Sistina go with you?"

"I had that in mind, however, I couldn't possibly take her highness to a place with chaotic public order in fear anything happened. Her Highness will be staying in the royal castle."

I made up some random excuse with the help of Deception skill.

I used the same excuse to leave Sera and Lady Karina too. And also Zena-san.

"That is fine. The empress has been wanting to spend times with Sistina too, so this is just right."

I guess Princess Sistina hasn't been interacting with her family much since she tends to hole up inside the royal castle's forbidden library.

"--Earl Pendragon."

The king called me when I was done telling my business.

Wonder what?

"What do you think about Saga Empire emperor's sister, Meryest-dono, who visited here as a member of princess Trimenus's entourage?"

"Yes well, she's a comrade-in-arms who fought together with me and Hero Hayato against the demon lord."

I had a bad feeling about it, so I put emphasize on the [Comrade in Arms] part.

"Fumu, comrade huh.... The present Emperor of Saga Empire is pushing Princess Meryest to be your wife."

Really, enough with that stuff already...

The king who saw my face cast down his eyes as if he saw through everything, and coughed once.

"I don't mind if you decline were you unwilling to. However, for the honor of the other party, be it positive or negative, let us hear your answer after your journey this time is over."

"I understand."

According to the king, refusing here won't have an impact on the diplomatic relations with Saga Empire.

"--Be that as it may, is there even anyone who can match Maryest-dono.

Perhaps she is fated to spend the remainder of her life in the corner of a monastery somewhere.... Alas."

The prime minister muttered quietly.

Even if you do that with a pitying look on your face, I'm still not marrying her okay?

If Princess Maryest has someone in mind, I can just power level him and have him beat an artificial demon lord to make them match each other, and if it's about age, it can be solved with rejuvenation medicine, lots of them.

I might as well send lolified lady Ringrande and Princess Maryest to Hayato's world.

Those wild ideas flashed in my mind, but there's quite a few problems to realize that.

I can at least suggest the idea if she comes to discuss with me after I decline the marriage proposal.

For now, since I've got the permission to go on a trip to the continent west, I should go around and visit my acquaintances to inform them of my departure.

Afterward, I went around to visit my acquaintances in the Royal Capital and

the labyrinth city, renewing old friendships.



"--I feel like it's lacking something."

I muttered alone in a quarantined laboratory located in the back of the research room in the Solitary Island Palace.

This place has been sealed with several layers of Yuika's barriers, so no harm will reach outside even if anything happens here.

--Oh?

I sensed a presence so I looked below and meet eyes with Tama who had been calling for my attention inside the shadow.

She can't get in due to Yuika's barrier, she looks like a cute cat who's desperately clinging to a glass while calling for me.

I opened the barrier and invited Tama inside.

"Master~?"

Looks like she felt lonely because she was blocked by the barrier, she climbed on my shoulders to ride on them and then began to rub her cheeks on my hair.

Tama quickly regained her calm after I lightly patted her head.

"What's wrong?"

"Time for meal~? It's stew ham~ burg today~?"

I see, it's already this late huh.

"What's that~?"

Tama is looking at lined up weapons which were in my hands just now.

"That's a sword called Holy Magic Sword."

The Holy Magic Sword is emitting a mix of blue and red light that turns into purple light.

This is a reproduction of the Holy Magic Sword, that Elder Dohar created, I made by myself.

Just like that time, I have a hunch that this won't get through gods.

I store the Holy Magic Sword in the Storage.

"That black box over there a sword too~?"

"Yeah, that's a sword I put here for Hikaru."

It's dangerous in its bare state, so I have it wrapped it in a quarantine barrier which also doubles as a preventive measure.

"--Nyu!"

When I undid the quarantine barrier, Tama shuddered and protracted her claws on my shoulders.

Looks like the stimulation was a bit too much.

I took the Divine Sword from the pedestal, returned it into the white sheath and put it away in the Storage.

"Is this one scary too?"

"...Aye."

I lifted a black spear that was placed next to the divine sword and asked Tama, who gave an affirmative.

Judging from her reaction, she seems to be better with it than with the Divine Sword earlier.

When I put the spear in the Storage, I could sense Tama's body relaxing.

"Well then, shall we grab some food."

"Aye~?"

I was going to inspect the enigmatic blank space skill but I should do that after the meal.



And then, the day we depart for the trials--.

"We will be going now, so I gallantly announce."

The heavily armed Nana saluted everyone who came to see us off in front of the airship's ramp.

It's not like we're going to the frontline okay.

"Everyone, get along well, okay."

"Cya~?"

"Pochi would like meat as her souvenir nodesu."

Tama and Pochi replied Liza at their own pace.

"Yes, I will bring some solid hard meat back with me."

"Oh, great~?"

"Po-Pochi would like meat that isn't too hard nodesu."

Even the meat-lover beast girls have their own preferences, it seems.

"Leave Shiga Kingdom to us."

"Yeah, I can travel in peace knowing Mito is here."

Most threats can be eliminated with Hikaru around.

"Ara? Just Mito-tan?"

"Objection."

"Of course, everyone too."

I pat Arisa's and Mia's heads and glanced at Lady Karina who was sulking behind everyone.

Calling her here would likely end up with taking her along so I'm going to ignore her now and follow-up in the Solitary Island Palace after we have departed.

Since I can immediately return here with Unit Arrangement and all.

"Satou!"

Lady Ringrande was coming here while waving her hands from afar.

"You're going to the continent west right? Can you take me along with you? I've got a lot of acquaintances and connections over there you know?"

"Ne, Anee-sama!"

Lady Ringrande's connections sound reliable, but that would mean disclosing my identity and the Solitary Island Palace, so I chose not to.

"I'm grateful for your kindness, but my journey this time is a private matter."

"Really?"

It seemed like Lady Ringrande never thought that I would refuse, she had a bored look on her face.

"Oh that's right, you've got a marriage proposal from Maryest right? If you're marrying Mary, how about marrying me too? You've got a lot of wives anyway, so adding one with me should pose no problem right?"

"There's a lot of problem! What are you doing marrying someone you don't even love!"

Sera was enraged at Lady Ringrande's declaration.

Lady Ringrande turned her face away and muttered miserably, "--I mean, I can't meet the person I love anymore", which could only be picked up by me and Ninja Tama who had [Attentive Ear] skill.

"The matter about Her Highness Maryest's marriage proposal is for after I return from this trip."

"What, you declined huh. What a waste. Mary might be older than Satou, but she's got a bombshell body even coming from me a woman, you know?"

"Ane-sama!"

I entrust Lady Ringrande who has become emotionally unstable and prone to drink heavily ever since Hayato left to Sera and speaks with other members.

"Zena-san, please take care escorting the children in their commutes."

"Yes! Leave it to me!"

Zena-san who beat her chest in affirmation looks reliable.

"Satou, leave the matters here to me and complete the trials without worries."

"Yes, Sistina-sama."

By matters, I think she means the stuff between the nobles and first prince Soltrick?

We boarded the airship after saying our farewell.

A tremendous amount of crowds are waving their hands from places away from the girls.

Ear-deafening cheers erupted every time I waved my hands.

It felt like I was an idol or a star athlete.

I have given my regards to the first prince Soltrick and other leaders of the kingdom yesterday, they're not here today.

Those VIPs couldn't possibly risk getting assassinated by coming to this kind of place.

"Satou-sama, we're ready to set sail. Is there no change in our course?"

"Yes, no change."

The airship circled the capital's sky once, went over the labyrinth city and advanced above the great desert.

The first trial is located in a country where the central temple of God Heraruon resides.

The airship we're riding is heading southwest of the great desert, toward a mid-sized country located in a small desert next to the great desert.

Our destination is the [Country of Sun] Sania Kingdom--.

I wonder what kind of country it is, I'm looking forward to it already--.

16-16. To the Country of Sun (1)

Satou here. I think the cause of internal squabbles is rooted on piled-up disgruntlements. Even if it looks a meaningless venting from ordinary citizens' point of view, it might be a policy to prevent the subversion of state from the leaderships' perspective.



"Master, I wonder what is that?"

"It looks like both black cloud and haze so I report."

Liza and Nana asked me when I was gazing at the Small Sand Sea from the deck.

I could see black haze-like thing on the far horizon of the Small Sand Sea.

"A sandstorm maybe?"

I opened the map and checked it out.

This place is located to the west of the Great Desert where Labyrinth City Selbira is, beyond the southern central mountains, it's a desert where the sand is smooth like water.

It's called Small Sand Sea, but its total area is as vast as three Japanese islands bundled together.

It seems there's a dead dungeon called Sandstorm Labyrinth at the place where the black haze the two found is located.

Looking with space magic [Distant View], there are several tornadoes, with the dead dungeon in the center, as if they're protecting it.

This must be the reason it looks like black haze.

I'm a bit intrigued, let's get the airship near it.

"Looks like it could get dangerous if we got too close to it."

When the airship came to a certain distance, several of the tornadoes approached like they were watchdogs.

"Tornado typhoo~n?"

Tama was already looking at the tornadoes on top of the deck's handrail before anyone noticed.

She probably crossed through shadows with ninjutsu.

"Tama, you shouldn't cut class."

"It's okay~?"

Tama laughed nihehe and continued, "I'm not playing hooky~?"

Confirming with space magic, I could see Tama's figure taking the class in the royal capital's childhood school.

"Shadow clone~?"

Shadow clone isn't for that kind of ninjutsu.

"You're not allowed to use ninjutsu during classes."

I punished Tama with the [Cheek Squash] while saying that.

Tama burst into laughter, "Nyahahahahaha~"

This is fun.

"Master, a sand ship is being attacked by bandits."

Quite a bit beyond the dead dungeon, a medium sized ship is being attacked by more than 10 yacht-like small ships.

"Emergency~?"

I catch Tama who was going to investigate there and put her down the shadow.

"Nyu?"

"Nevermind here, go back and take the classes."

"Aye~"

Tama sunk into the shadow while saying "Nin nin" even though she looked disappointed.

Now then, shall we go and do some ally of justice-like stuff?



"--I guess there was no need to help them?"

We were going to save the medium ship that was being attacked by a group of yacht-like small airships, but huge fireballs shot from the medium ship had begun to annihilate the small ships one after another.

Doesn't seem like they need help, so I tell the brownie in the cockpit to circle around it from a distance.

"Master, are the small ships seafaring pirates? So I ask."

"No, looks like they're called sand pirates."

There's no doubt that those guys are outlaws, so I don't intend to stop the one destroying them.

"Oh looks like they don't have it easy either?"

The medium ship has been sinking one small ship with each shot, but it seems that's not from the ship's armaments, they're relying on one magician on board.

Judging from the information on the AR reading, the magician is fast losing their mana.

The sand pirates seem to be aware of that too as they don't seem to be fleeing even though several of their allies have been sunk.

"Master, should we go and dispose of the sand pirates?"

"Right--"

I gave an affirmative to Liza.

For some reason, Liza and Nana are looking at me with eyes full of expectation about something.

"Go and punish them a bit."

"Acknowledged."

"Launching catapult so I inform."

One part of the deck split and a catapult rail stretched out of it.

Four stacks of Acceleration Gate magic circles appear above the rail.

Liza and Nana take out surfboard-shaped float boards and head to the catapult.

Those float boards are playing tools I made for the Acceleration Gate experiment in the Great Desert back then.

The medium ship had sunk half of the sand pirate ships right before our eyes, but the magician seemingly had exhausted their mana, as the remaining six pirate ships approached the medium ship to raid it.

"Here I go."

"Master, I'll be going so I gallantly announce."

Liza and Nana took off from the catapult, glided with the float boards and landed on the last pirate ship on the line.

Liza's magic spear neutralized the sand pirates one after another, Nana's sword and great shield infringed upon both the pirates and the ships.

"Have the airship pass over the medium sand ship."

"Yes sir~"

I gave an instruction to the brownie pilot and checked the ship from above.

One of the sand pirate ships has successfully gotten next to the medium ship, and a battle has already started on board the medium ship.

Among the sand pirates, three of them including the captain are unusually strong.

"I'll be going for a bit."

"Good luck!"

I jumped off onto the medium ship right when the airship passed above it.

"●●●"

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

>[Sania National Language] Skill Acquired.

It's a language of a country I'm visiting.

Might as well allocate skill points and activate it now.

I do have force magic [Translate] but the skill for a particular language is better at deciphering subtle nuances.

"The hell are you!"

"Just a meddling tourist."

The striking sand pirate captain with an eyepatch asked for my identity.

"Allies of the Clan of Wand are our enemy."

"Receive the special move of the Clan of Sword with your body."

It's two of the three unusually strong sand pirates I saw from above.

There's lots of unfamiliar terms, but it appears they're no mere sand pirates.

"Special Move--<<Shell Breaker>>"

"Special Move--<<Hair-splitting Pierce>>"

The moves seem to make use of Physical Reinforcement as the two charge at me with weird aura covering them.

I'd like to see what kind of techniques they are, so I stand by with the fairy sword covered in magic edge in position to parry them.

The eyepatch captain earlier will bring about bloodshed on the deck if I'm occupied by these two, so I use [Magic Hand] to get in the way of the eyepatch captain and other pirates.

The [Pierce] swordsman on the left is unusually fast and sharp.

He's only level 30, but he's not inferior to Shiga Eight Swords if we're only

talking about the speed of his sword.

But--.

--It's too straightforward."

I thought it was a feint, but it really was a single blow finisher, so I parried it just like that.

There might be other techniques chained from this, so I let him off without countering.

"NUOOOOOOOOOOO"

The [Breaker] swordsman on the right swung down his sword while screaming out loud.

Whirling wind is coiling about the sword, like it's been enhanced by magic.

Getting hit by that looks like it'll hurt, but avoiding it might break the deck.

But well--.

"--Too slow."

I jumped to his bosom, caught the hand with the sword and threw him down.

I thought of a technique that could break the wrist bone while doing the throw, but since even thinking about that sounded painful, I refrained from doing so.

I turned toward the swordsmen anticipating for their next move, but they don't seem like they're coming.

"This cannot be, he evaded the certain-hit 『Hair-splitting Pierce』 that absolutely can't be evaded?"

"This guy evaded the 『Whirlpool』 of 『Shell Breaker』 in his first try."

They began to leave comments like in some kind of battle manga somehow.

They're a bit too relaxed.

"Belbe, we're goint to use that."

"However, the Secret Special Moves are to never be shown outside. Doing that in a place like this--."

"That thing is a monster. We cannot accomplish our secret order without using it."

Ah hey, do that kind of confidential talk elsewhere.

"Can I say one thing?"

The swordsmen turned their exasperated gazes at me.

"If you're too relaxed--"

I was going to say it'll be dangerous, but SQUASH and THUD sounds reverberated on the deck before I could finish.

Needless to say, Liza and Nana who jumped on from other ships knocked down the two swordsmen.

"Master, pardon us for our tardiness."

"Master, we have suppressed the other ships so I report."

"Thank you for your hard work."

Half of the sand pirate ships have their sails destroyed, while the remaining half have the crews knocked out so they've all begun to drift away.

"Throw away your weapons!"

That cliché line roared on the deck.

Looking there, the sand pirate captain is holding a magician girl wearing a luxurious-looking robe.

Most people in the countries around here have tanned skin with black hair, yet the girl has white skin almost like she's an albino and golden hair.

"I said throw them away now!"

The sand pirate captain points his curved sword on the girl's neck.

I see, looks like he's saying that he won't guarantee the hostage's life if we don't throw away our weapons.

I put the fairy sword into its sheath.

The sand pirate captain grinned when he saw that.

"Liza."

"--Acknowledged."

Liza lowers her magic spear.

During the interval Liza swung down her magic spear, a red light ball--Magic Edge Cannon shot out of its tip.

The light ball shot out so fast it couldn't be chased by eyes, pierced through the sand pirate captain's shoulder, and blew him to the deck with the after-wave.

I've constrained the sand pirate captain's curved sword with [Magic Hand] to prevent it from injuring the girl.

"Haifa-sama, are you injured anywhere?"

"No I'm fine, these people have saved me."

A woman who seems to be her lady attendant went out of the inboard and helped the girl called Haifa.

Coincidentally enough, the girl called Haifa seems to be one of the ruling classes of the country we're heading to, Sania Kingdom.

She belongs to [Clan of Wand], and apparently, she's the daughter of the clan's head.

"Young master! Five warships are coming from southwest."

The brownie in the sky above us reported with a loudspeaker.

"--Ha-Haifa-sama."

"Looks like they're our pursuers."

Haifa and her lady attendant exchanged words of unrest.

"This damaged ship can't hope to outrun them--"

The flustered lady attendant caught sight of the airship standing by in the air.

"--You!"

The lady attendant appealed while pressing her voluptuous breasts on me.

It feels great, but I just can smell trouble.

"You appear to be a visitor from another country. Please save Haifa-sama from the rebel's clutch."

I peel off the seducing lady attendant, and look at Haifa.

I could see black warships on the sand dune behind Haifa.

Those warships are furnished with organic looking armor. Wonder if they're using materials from monsters.

Saving Haifa is trivial, but that's not the problem here.

It's the fact that those ships belong to Sania Kingdom, our destination.

Now then, what to do here.

This can't be one of the imposed trials by the gods, can it?

Intermission 1. Royal Capital Then

"Arisa, which?"

"Shortcake is nice and all, but it just has to be mont blanc in fall!"

"Really?"

Mia took the plate with shortcake while looking like she didn't really understand.

"Delish."

The cakes Lulu made really are superb.

Eating something sweet and tasty just blows away the fatigue from class.

"Hey, Mia."

"Whaf (what)?"

Mia whose mouth was filled with shortcake tilted her head at my question.

Kuh, cute. This kind of gestures suits Mia well.

"What kind of incidents do you think Master encounter right about now?"

"Mwu--"

Mia frowns.

"--World crisis."

"Ah, you think so too?"

Master's rate of encounter with incidents almost seems like he's been cursed by some god of pestilence.

He blew it all away with his cheat power every single time though so the person himself doesn't seem to be aware of his own misfortune.

I mean, it's at a level that'd normally make people cry out, "Such misfortuuuuuune."

"What kind of person do you think brought about the world crisis?"

"....Cute girl."

Mia replied unwillingly.

Un, I think so too.



"For the creativity time, you are free to let out your passions to your heart's content."

Teach said some difficult things.

"Pochi is writing~?"

"Of course nanodesu. Today Pochi is writing 『A Stroll with Lyuryu』 nodesu."

Pochi declared while taking the shupin pose.

"Tama is going to draw a picture nodesu?"

"Of course~"

Tama draws pictures.

Pictures are drawn by Tama.

That's the natural order of things. Arisa said.

"What's Tama drawing nodesu?"

"Difficult~"

There's too many things Tama wants to draw.

"Pochi thinks Tama should draw the food she wants to eat for dinner nodesu."

"Nice~"

Pochi is a genius.

But she doesn't like vegetables. Cause they're a bit bitter.

Tama's favorite food is meat.

She'd like to eat hamburg steak today.

A piping hot cheese-filled hamburg steak that gushes out flowing cheese when you cut it with a knife.

She also likes one covered in flowing cheese and potatoes.

Cheese and hamburg steak are justice.

Tama puts her passions on the brush.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

Now--.

"--Tama-san, the class is over."

Teach swayed Tama.

The class was over while she was spacing out.

"Nyu?"

The other kids are looking at Tama.

It feels a bit embarrassing.

"Pochi, drool~?"

Pochi who's peeking at the picture from the side is drooling badly.

Looking closer, even China has drools on the corner of her mouth.

"Ta-Tama-san? Would you be willing to sell this picture?"

"Not for sale~?"

China asked.

This picture is for Master.

Tama's sure Master would praise Tama like, 'Well done, Tama.'

Perhaps, Master might even let Tama sleep on his lap while patting her head.

"Nihehe~"

Tama smiled unintentionally.

Gotta ask brownies to make a frame when Tama got back.



"--Delicious."

I heard about this store's fame in the capital, but it was even better than the rumors.

It's just a simple tofu nabe, yet it has the umami of the dashi even without condiments and broth added.

"Getting a passing mark from Lulu, that's amazing desuwa."

"But Karina-sama, this nabe really is delicious, you know?"

Karina-sama and Zena-san who came to this shop with me have only been talking while watching me, not touching tofu with their chopsticks.

"You two, this nabe is really good, you should have yours too."

"Yes, you're right, it'll be a waste if the taste spoils because they get overcooked."

"That's true desuwane. It's not as good as Satou's dishes, but it's still really good desuwa."

Karina-sama, Master's dishes are a class on its own.

I mean, Master is the [Miracle Chef] after all.

"Fhy fhe fway (by the way), Zena."

"Yes, what is it?"

『Karina-dono, it's bad manners to speak during meals.』

"Im fowwy"

Raka-san scolded Karina-sama who spoke with her mouth full.

Karina-sama continues after swallowing the tofu.

"What is her highness Sistina doing?"

"It seems like she's currently running about to prepare the ceremony for we--no, for when Satou-san and the others come back."

"Ceremony?"

"U-umm, I'm not really sure either..."

I wonder if it's the thing Arisa and her highness talked about?

"I don't really get it myself, but Arisa said that it was something like a celebration."

"Celebration?"

I supplemented with what I thought since Karina-sama looked puzzled.

"Is that true?"

"Y-yes. She's making dresses for everyone for that celebration."

--Dress.

It's something that doesn't really have anything to do with me.

"For Pochi and the girls too?"

"Yes, Sistina-sama said that everyone in the Solitary Island Palace will get a dress."

...Which means, me too?

I quietly touched my stomach and felt sweat running down my spine.

"Oh my? Lulu, are you done already?"

"Yes, I've grasped the taste--"

--And it's dangerous for my waistline.

I have to slim down my waistline a bit more if I were to stand next to Liza-san and Nana-san.

I've got to the labyrinth city through the solitary island palace and get some exercise.

In order to compensate for my face handicap, I've got to build a beautiful body line!!

It's essential for the upcoming maiden fight.

16-17. To the Country of Sun (2)

Satou here. Apparently, internal squabbles have always existed in various era and scales. From my subjective point of view, the way you tactfully handle the aftermath is more important than who the winning side is.



"You referred to them as rebels earlier, however as far as I'm aware, they should belong to Sania Kingdom's army. Did the army revolt and kill the king?"

I urged the daughter of [Clan of Wand]'s head to explain the situation while gazing at the black warships that showed up.

"The king has been tricked. The country cannot be held together without the Cland of Wand yet, he was deceived by the Clan of Sword and threw us the 『Clan of Wand』 to prison..."

Were they defeated in a political struggle <physically>?

"In other words, were you captured by those guys, you would be 『thrown in prison and executed』?"

"No--"

Haifa shook her head to deny it.

"--Like I said before, the country cannot be held together without us, 『Clan of Wand』."

I'm intrigued by why it can't be held together, but since that's not the issue here, I wait for her to continue.

"Thus, they will most likely lock us up in the prison and make us run in battlefields as living weapons. I do not care if the foolish king and the ignorant masses die off even if the country is destroyed, but we cannot go against them because they've held our family hostage."

Okay, I can greatly sympathize with her putting her family first, but her use of words are too intense, it feels like conceit, or rather, haughtiness.

I wonder if this is what you'd become if you were raised with the idea of being the elites?

"If you don't care about your country and populace, how about having the 『Clan of Wand』 run away to a foreign country?"

"Are you telling us to show our back to the 『Clan of Sword』 who can't even act like proper meat shields!"

Oh, she snapped.

Kinda feels like we can't come to an agreement even though we can understand each others?

Haifa looks like a graceful secluded lady outwardly, but she seems to be quite self-righteous and violent.

"My wand is a blade to defend our country--"

Haifa smiled abnormally and put her mana into her wand.

The exquisite golden colored wand emits red light.

"But let me alter the rule just for today. Carry us on your airship if you don't want to be killed by my wand. We cannot afford to be caught by traitors in this place."

Now she went with a threat.

Un, let's quickly part ways with her.

Got a feeling that having her around would only lead to piled-up stress.

This would be problematic if it were a trial from gods, but it probably isn't.

I have no intention in the least to ally with them and settle the conflict, however that also doesn't mean that I'm going to hand them over to the warships and let them be used as living weapons, thus I've decided to help them escape.

It's not because I think it's troublesome and want to throw them away somewhere far, not at all.

I pretend that I'll help them escape for now.

"Do you think this is just a threat? I am being serious."

Liza and Nana sent their glances, asking, "Should we seize her?", I gestured them to wait.

I open the Map and look for some handy-looking monster to disturb the warships.

Found a worm-type level 30 monster called Sand Demon in the vicinity, so I caught it with 『Sand Manipulation』 and threw it near the warships.

--Huge.

The part that came out of the sand is huge enough to swallow a Blue Whale.

This thing being level 30 is such an extreme sham.

"T-that's!"

Haifa sounded surprised.

"Sa...Sand Demon. You there, get Haifa-sama on board the airship! Quick while the warships act as scapegoats!"

The lady maid-san said something brutal as if it was only natural.

"I'd love nothing more but to do that, however we have our own Trial of Gods we need to absolutely accomplish."

I bow to her like a stage actor.

I create two [Acceleration Gates] at the bow direction of the medium airship, opposite of the warships.

"Allow me to pray for your success in accomplishing your own trial."

I told them some prayer that didn't really come from heart, directed the medium ship toward the [Acceleration Gates] I produced, and used wind magic [Wind Pressure] to propel the ship forward.

Haifa and the others hold their faces and clothes due to the sudden wind pressure, the medium ship's captains and crews made a commotion.

I float away with Sky Drive from the speeding ship that's going toward the [Acceleration Gates], and take Liza and Nana along with me using [Magic Hand].

"W-wait! What are you--"

The ship reached the Acceleration Gate and made a sudden acceleration

while she was speaking, and Haifa's words were lost in the winds.

I was wary of possible magic attacks during the sending away, but fortunately, it ended without any problem.

We watched over the medium ship and Haifa that disappeared on horizon of the Small Sand Sea while floating above the sand.

Please live on toward your rehabilitation.

And if possible, at somewhere far away from me.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"--We're indebted to you."

"No no, it's just right to help each others in times of needs."

The warship's captain said his thanks to me who saved the warships from the Sand Demon.

It might seem hypocritical coming from the one who made the situation in the first place, but I couldn't exactly leave warships sinking before my eyes so I intervened.

This warship's captain and officers are wearing Arabian-like clothing.

A crew with sharp-looking eyes whispered something to the captain's ear.

It's the guy who was controlling mini gargoyles awhile ago.

"Your excellency, those drifting ships were the sand pirate where Belbe and the others had snuck in."

"Just as we thought, so where's Belbe and the others?"

"We couldn't find a survivor inside."

"Which means, we should consider that the medium ship earlier had Haifa-dono on board..."

Attentive Ears skill caught their conversation.

Afterward, the captain turns toward me.

"Earl Pendragon, about the sand ship that was attacked by those sand pirates-
_"

"A girl on board of it wielded her wand, and then they escaped from the Sand Demon with some kind of magic."

She did wield the wand when she insisted to get on our airship, but I'm the one who used the [some kind of magic] part, therefore it's not really lie.

The officer with sharp eyes has God Urion's gift [Eyes of Condemnation] so I'd like to avoid telling lies here.

I don't think the gift is capable of distinguishing lies, but I'm still wary of the intuition of people who have this kind of gift to see through criminals.

"Who'd have thought that Ha--the 『Clan of Wand』 possessed such hidden technique..."

"Were they your acquaintances?"

The captain stopped speaking when I asked him.

He reworded her name to the clan itself, but I don't think there's any point in doing that.

"No, my subordinate reckoned that they might have been the gang who stole the kingdom's treasured wand..."

The wand Haifa carried with her belonged to the [Clan of Wand] so he's not telling the truth here.

Of course, there's also a possibility that the [Clan of Wand] possessed the national treasured wand due to their influence.

"I see, that sounds terrible."

I replied like it was none of my business.

"We will only get in the way if you're going to pursue that ship. We will be on our way then."

"P-Please wait."

Not wanting to get involved in something troublesome, I was going to leave as soon as possible, but the warship captain stopped me.

"Yes, what is it?"

"I'd like to express our gratitudes for your help. By all means, please visit Clan of Sword during your time in Sania Kingdom. Our clan will gladly welcome you."

Looks like this captain is a direct descendant of the [Clan of Sword].

"I'll be looking forward to that."

I can't promise that I'll go.

I mean, I can just feel trouble brewing there.

I climb up the rope ladder hanging down the airship and leave their ship.

And saw one mini gargoyle flying toward Sania Kingdom.

It appears to be a mini gargoyle functioning like a carrier pigeon.



"Master, lots of mushroom houses around, so I report."

"They rather look like snails instead."

Nana's and Liza's impressions are reasonable.

Peculiar shaped buildings are lined up at the royal capital of Sania Kingdom.

"Master, there are flying objects approaching us."

Some men riding on magic tools shaped like flying carpets with legless chairs installed on board are flying toward us.

It looks like a magic carpet, but if I have to say, it looks more like the time machine a certain cat robot from the future rode.

The magic carpets got near the airship and flew parallel to us while gesturing that they weren't hostile.

"We assume that you're Earl Pendragon-sama of Shiga Kingdom. We will be

your guide, please follow us."

Looks like the mini gargoyle was to prepare for this.

I'd have liked them to come after we toured the royal capital from above once.

Chances are high that they'd be attacking us with magic and magic artillery if we really did the tour though.

"Thank you for guiding us."

I shouted that to reply them and informed the brownie in control of the ship.

"Someone's watching from there~?"

"Tama's right nanodesu. It's like, flash flash, nanodesuyo."

Tama and Pochi were dangling on the airship's handrail before I knew it.

I call the two while folding my arms.

"Tama, Pochi?"

"I-it's not like that nodesuyo?"

Pochi shook her head buzzingly.

It seems she doesn't like the cheek squash punishment.

"Break time~?"

Tama asked me with flopped ears.

Fumu, I guess it's fine if it's break time.

I'm not sure if I should really give my consent here, but since I'm intrigued by what Tama and Pochi found, I look at the direction in question.

There's a palace in the center of the capital, boys and girls who look like Haifa are in one of the spires there. The gazes seemingly come from them.

They're probably Haifa's relatives, but they look so similar like they're either twins or clones.

Judging from the intensity of their gazes, I'm guessing that their personalities are also similar to Haifa, I should try not to get involved with them.



"--Trial of Gods?"

I'm having an audience with the king in the well ventilated Sania Kingdom's Palace.

Even though the king is only in his thirties, he looks like a weak-spirited middle aged man.

The military officers from the [Clan of Sword] standing by in the audience room look more important instead.

I'd better deliver a gift one ranking lower than what I gave the king earlier to these [Clan of Sword] people.

"Yes, King of Sania. I came here to Sania Kingdom in order to take a Trial of Gods."

I honestly told him my business since there was no particular need to hide it.

"What kind of trial is it?"

"That will be up to gods. It should be revealed by the gods at Heraruon Temple."

That's why, let me off this already.

"You ought be tired from the long journey. We shall send a messenger to the temple, have some rest in mine own palace tonight."

Well, guess that's only natural.

"This Pendragon shed tears of gratitude for Sania King's kindness."

I ended up using some weird speech due to the old fashioned speech of the king here.

No choice, let's accept the hospitality today.

I just hope that there won't be any weird flag getting raised.

16-18. To the Country of Sun (3)

Satou here. A friend insisted that music has power to stir people emotion. That friend used scenes in anime where the theme song got played, but if I have to say, I think that's just a typical case of insert songs.



Ornaments glittering with magical lights are swaying, those lights are reflected on the oiled dark brown skins, emphasizing captivating body lines.

Moreover, matching the dancing moves, the short thin fabric flutter about, instinctively drawing line of sights to it.

--T'was a sight for sore eyes.

"Are ye enjoying yourself Earl Pendragon."

"I am, King of Sania."

Evening of the audience day with king of Sania, we're being welcomed with a banquet held by the king.

Zabuton-sized cushions are laid out on top of the soft fluffy carpet where we're sitting.

Authorities of Sania Kingdom are sitting on the carpet in such a way to create a circle, and dancer-sans are performing a wonderful dance in the center space of the circle.

The exposure rate of people in this country is scarce for both men and women, but these girls are practically half-naked, looking sensual.

"It's truly a magnificent dance."

"Umu, 'tis a traditional art older than our country itself."

--Hohou. What a wonderful culture.

"The temple folks scorn it, vulgar they say, but it is nothing to be ashamed about."

Sania king left a weak impression on me, but he looked a bit cool at this moment.

As expected of the bearer of the hidden titles, [Cultural Guardian] and [Mentor of Traditional Art].

--Hm?

Cheers erupted at the opposite side of the circle where the [Clan of Sword] gathered.

It doesn't look good, like they're drunk.

"Get out of the way! This great me will show you the real thing."

A huge man carrying a largish scimitar went to the center of the stage, and drove the dancers away.

--What savagery!

My indignation seemed to have leaked through the impenetrable defense of Poker Face-sensei skill, several of the [Clan of Sword] people sitting on the opposite side got hit by the [Coercion] skill and got knocked out.

Would have been nice if the the savage drunk idiot-kun also got hit, but he got off it since it was just right when I turned my gaze aside.

Idiot-kun threw away his coat, drew his sword and began to dance.

It looks to be a sword dance.

"M-Master swordsman Dorito's dance is famous these days. I-I'm sure, Earl Pendragon too--"

King Sania covered for Idiot-kun.

Looks like he got hit by Coercion skill a bit, he tapered halfway through.

Still, that's a master swordsman huh--

According to AR reading, he's a level 45 swordsman and the little brother of the [Clan of Sword]'s head, the clan's number 2.

I'm intrigued by the [Special Move: Golden Sword] and [Secret Move: Sun Slash Sword]. I'd like to see them at least once.

Putting that aside--.

This master swordsman has been glancing here with a triumphant look on his face since a while ago, it's annoying.

The master swordsman's dance aside, the musical performance is exotic and worth listening to.

This tune must be originally for raising fighting spirit though.

Seeing me not reacting, the master swordsman stopped during the music interlude and walked toward me while smiling ferociously.

Forgetting the drawn sword aside, please stop staring at me with sweat all over your muscled body while breathing roughly.

"I hear that Demon Slayer-dono is also an expert swordsman. Shall we dedicate a dance to Gods together?"

Is he talking about sword dance thing?

I'd gladly become a dancing partner if the other party is a beautiful female swordsman, but not really when it's a muscled daruma.

"Or maybe you're scared to expose yourself before my sword even in a performance?"

The master swordsman provoked me while looking down on me.

Does he want to show off that he's better a better swordsman than me?

Liza, who's sitting beside me, has been leaking out killing intent since a while ago.

Looks like she doesn't like this master swordsman's attitudes.

"Master, allow me."

"I am Master's shield so I announce."

Liza and Nana expressed their wish to dance.

"Is the one known as Demon Lord Slayer gonna hide inside a woman's skirt?"

The master swordsman provoked further, Liza and Nana were about to stand up.

I stopped them with a hand.

They would blatantly go at this to beat him if I let these two take care of this.

"I can't exactly refuse your enthusiastic invitation now, can I."

Since I was unarmed, I borrowed a sword from Sania King's escort and walked toward the center space.

A loud cheers erupted from the Clan of Sword for the master swordsman, really magnifies the feeling of being on the away side.

"--Music!"

Since the music starts, I faultlessly dance while recalling the master swordsman's sword dance earlier.

The master swordsman's sword almost hit me dangerously several times.

The [Clan of Sword] people cheered every time it happened, but the maids and the dancers screamed.

Liza and Nana were releasing their bloodlust toward the master swordsman, so I told them that I'm fine through [Telephone].

Judging from the fact that no one tries to stop it even though it's dangerous like this, sword dances must be in fashion in this country.

Then I've got to match them.

Right, left, up, down.

The sword dance gradually accelerates.

I thought it would be boring, but it's unexpectedly fun.

The speed is similar to playing cards.

The gallery peanut is frolic to watch the high speed sword dance.

The musical accompaniment also matches the sword dance's speed, gradually raising the tempo, helping heating the place up.

In contrast, the master swordsman is wiping his profuse sweat with a frantic look on his face.

I have no obligation to hold back here, so I'm gonna increase my speed again right when the tempo increases.

--Ah.

The master swordsman disappeared in front of me.

No, he slipped on his own sweat.

Cheers and laughter erupted from people other than the Clan of Sword, the loud yells of the Clan of Swords bunch faded out.

"Gununu..."

"Did you slip on your sweat?"

The master swordsman was looking at the floor with a dark red face that seemed like he had an apoplexy, so I extended my hand with a smile.

"--No need."

The master swordsman was going to flick my hand, so I lightly evaded it.

The master swordsman whose face got even more redder left the place while perking his shoulders.

His career would have been over if this were in Shiga Kingdom, but it seems to be no problem in this country as no one is criticizing him. Even the Sania King.

No, Sania King is flapping his mouth open and close with a pale face, so it might have been rude by this country's standard too.

"Cheers for Earl Pendragon-sama's wonderful sword dance!"

When a close aide of the Sania King shouted that, the remaining officials and singers gave their applauses.

Immediately after, a bright tune got played and the dancers who were chased away earlier resumed their lovely dance.

This Sania Kingdom has a lot of problem but it appears that there are some tactful people left here.

"Earl-sama, that was a terrific sword dance."

"I'd love to hear about your demon lord slaying saga."

By the close aide's instructions, beautiful women and girls in dancer outfits approached me and poured drink while being glued close to me.

It's a cheap way to entertain someone, but these girls have no sin, so I let myself to be entertained.

After enjoying a soft and fluffy moment and drinking a lot, the pale faced Sania King left his seat, thus I also left the banquet.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"This is a splendid garden."

"Yes, this was relocated from the capital at the end of Furu Empire."

I stare at the southern paradise-like garden filled with blooming flowers as we walk in the passageway adorned with relief.

I wanted to enjoy the exquisite courtyard a bit more, but it seems that you can find uncouth people everywhere.

I look at two shadows hiding behind a bush.

"Master--"

I gave a consent to Liza's whisper.

Nana casually moved to where she could protect me.

Looks like the two noticed the shadows too.

I won't hesitate to expel them if they are assassins, but since their bloodlust is way too obvious, they're probably people from the earlier master swordsman's clan seeking revenge.

"Who's there!"

Maid-san called out at the man and woman who didn't even attempt to hide their figures.

Maid-san held her breath when she saw the two under the moonlight.

"Zanza-sama? Myufa-sama? What business do 『Clan of Sword』 have with us?"

Looks like the maid is familiar with them.

"This got nothing to do with a mere servant."

The handsome swordsman Zanza ignored the maid after saying that and walked toward me with the beautiful swordswoman Myufa.

Zanza boy is carrying a single-edged scimitar made from monster parts on his back.

While Myufa's is two single-edged swords made from the same material.

"Show us the demon lord slayer's swordsmanship which took down our uncle."

Is he talking about the sword dance?

"We want to fight the strongest swordsman there is."

"Of course, in a serious match."

Myufa supplemented Zanza's line.

They're quite a hot-headed bunch despite their intellectual-looking faces.

"Master, allow me to take care of this."

"I will be their opponent instead Master so I inform."

Liza and Nana got between me and the two.

"I will accept your challenge if you two can win against these two."

"Are you telling me, the next master swordsman, to fight women?"

"This discussion is over if you don't want to."

I told the dissatisfied two that there was no room for negotiation.

I'd like to sleep early today. I got too fired up in the talk with the dancers since the impregnable fortress pair wasn't present so I felt slightly tired.

"I got it, let's end this quick and get you on the stage."

Zanza boy pointed at the courtyard arrogantly.

Is he going to fight in this beautiful garden?

"Zanza-sama! This garden is Sania Kingdom's--"

"Shut up."

Zanza interrupted the maid who was going to scold him with words filled with bloodlust.

"No need to go out to the garden. Just fight in this corridor."

"Hmph, fine then. It'd end with a slash from my golden sword anyway."

Zanza boy agreed with my suggestion and stood before Nana in the passageway.

Nana readied her round shield and one-handed sword she took out of the magic bag.

"Here goes, Special Move--<<Golden Sword>>"

Zanza boy's single-edged sword is clad in golden light.

Zanza boy who's clad in golden light steps forward at a speed that equals Flickering Movement.

I saw Nana lightly pulling back her shield.

Right after, roaring sounds and screams filled the passageway.

Nana is standing with her shield thrust out at the place where Zanza boy was, Zanza boy himself had fainted on a broken pillar at the end of the passageway in an upside down position.

Zanza boy who received Nana's Shield Bash is in critical condition.

His limbs are broken in weird directions and he's coughing dangerous colored blood.

"Nii-sama!"

The witness of that disastrous scene, Myufa, screamed sorrowfully.

It'd be bad to leave him alone, so I took out a mid level potion from my bosom and sprinkled it on Zanza.

I healed him after correcting his broken limbs with [Magic Hands] so there should be no problem.

"Trivial, so I inform."

Myufa is glaring.

"Do you want to fight? So I inquire."

Myufa nodded with a pale face at Nana's question.

"Nii-sama's enemy."

Myufa started the fight after shouting like she was the victim here.

Nana fires her Shield Bash at Myufa who's taking the defensive posture.

As if saying that she wouldn't repeat Zanza boy's mistake, she evaded that attack by jumping and did a splendid somersault above Nana.

She went for Nana's head when she was about to leap over her, but Nana who was clad in Magic Edge easily destroyed her magic swords.

"My swords!"

The shocked Myufa was hit by the second Shield Bash before she could land.

Receiving an attack from Nana who doesn't discriminate against sexes, Myufa ended up in the same state as Zanza boy.

"Defenselessly jumping there was a bad move so I inform."

Nana announced her victory while taking her signature pose.

True, not being able to at least do a double jump makes for a good target.

I healed Myufa like I did Zanza boy, and left them alone while they were still unconscious as we went to our room.

I saw their attendants on the Radar, they'd probably collect them anyway.

Naked dancers-san are lying in wait, like it's some honey trap, in the room allocated for me.

"Guilty so I announce."

Nana who went in the room after me drove the dancers-san away after saying that while looking oddly cheerful.

She probably wanted to say [Guilty] like Arisa and Mia did.



"Master Nagasaki! Forgive us for our rudeness last night. Please make me your disciple!"

"I'd like to be your disciple too please! I was keenly made aware of my immaturity from Master's technique."

The next morning, Zanza boy and Myufa intruded on us and asked to be Nana's apprentices.

"Becoming pupils is impossible for anyone but young organisms, so I inform."

"Y-Young organisms?"

"Please don't say that!"

This sibling is quite persistent.

They were quiet during breakfast, but they kept pestering her even after she refused them many times.

To the point that Nana who was usually expressionless emanates her fed up.

The sibling rode on camel and chased after us who rode on a camel carriage, but they had a complex expression on their faces when we stopped in front of Heraruon Temple.

The little sister, Myufa said "I hate temples" and turned the camel's head around, and Zanza boy went after his sister afterward, leaving the temple.

Please don't do those kind of implicative acts.

Well, I guess it's better than having them around, getting in the way.

"Master, the temple's symbol is that of sun so I inform."

"Still, this temple is humongous."

"Yeah, it really is."

It's a very huge temple for being located at a mid-sized country.

According to AR info, the sun symbol isn't only made of colored glass and gems, it also has Light Stones and Light Crystals embedded inside, emitting mystical lights.

This building would have looked even more impressive if we visited by at night.

After going up long stairs at the entrance, a Heraruon Temple priest wearing luxurious vestment was waiting for us.

"We have been waiting for you--"

The priest said that courteously.

It felt a bit hostile for some reason.

--One who challenges Trials of Gods."

The priest is glaring at me with prickly gazes.

I don't remember having done anything to make the priests here glaring at me though.

Before I could say anything, the priest turned around as if saying, "Follow me", and went into the temple without even looking back.

Since I can't exactly go back here, I shrug my shoulders and follow after the priest with Liza and Nana.

Now then, wonder what's the trial here about?

16-19. Heraruon Temple

Satou here. There's probably nothing as uncontrollable as pure love in any era. But you've also got make sure not to turn into a stalker even after getting your hands on convenient power and tools.



"Please wait in this room."

The unfriendly Heraruon Temple's priest went away, leaving us behind in a cold dreary prison-like reception room.

There are chairs in the room at least, but they're made of hard stone, so I don't want to sit on one.

Looking around with space magic [Distant View], all other rooms besides this one seems nicely proper.

I'm not misunderstanding here, looks the temple priest earlier really holds enmity toward us.

"Such a simple and sturdy room. I wonder if God Heraruon is a warrior?"

"There was a description stating that on the seats of pantheon, so I inform."

Since Liza and Nana don't seem to have any complaint with the treatment, I took several cushions out of storage bag and put them on the chairs.

Might as well use this chance to get a little revenge and peek on the temple priest earlier with space magic [Distant View] and [Sharp Hearing].

"Miko Surya-sama, the black haired boy who was in the oracle has appeared."

"Is it really him?"

"Yes, I have never seen anyone else with the title 『Challenger of Trials of Gods』."

There's a serene looking girl wearing miko-like clothing sitting in front of the priest.

Her skin is untanned white, unusual for a resident of Sania Kingdom, her eyes are kept gently shut. Perhaps, she's visually impaired.

I thought she had noticed me, but that doesn't seem to be the case.

"I will go and greet him before the ceremony. Please lead the way."

"Understood. However, that guy is an uncouth warrior. We cannot allow anything happens to Miko-sama. Please wait until the temple swordsmen arrived."

That's some verbal abuse.

"That would be unnecessary. He is someone who has come here to receive God's trial. He won't be someone foolish enough to harm a Miko and incur the wrath of God Heraruon."

"You must not, Miko-sama. Warriors are a race that act before they think. They are not people who are careful not to do regrettable acts, but people who regret after the fact."

This extreme prejudice, perhaps Priest-kun has had a trauma with warriors.

Though, right after thinking that, the figures of warriors in this country and the magician girl flashed in my mind.

Un, maybe it's not really prejudice.

Additionally, after checking the Map, I found out that the girl is the sole [Oracle Miko] in this country.

Considering that, it's only natural for Priest-kun to be watchful of her safety.

After waiting for a while, a young priestess showed up to lead us to another reception room where the Miko was waiting.



"Nice to meet you, 『Challenger of Trials of God』. My name is Surya, I am an 『Oracle Miko』 who serves under God Heraruon."

"I'm Satou Pendragon of Shiga Kingdom. I am honored to be given the chance to meet Miko Surya-dono."

The girl who spoke with a calm tone had this solemn feel like an elderly elf.

I could afford to look at her for hours if it wasn't for the sullen looking Priest-kun standing behind her.

After some harmless chatter, I get straight to the point.

"I would like to take on the trial from God Heraruon, what should I do in order to do that?"

"The temple is prepared for it."

--That's nice.

It seems like they've completed the preparation since they knew that a challenger of the trial would come via an Oracle.

"If you miss out today as destined, you will have to wait for half a month, Satou-dono, which do you want to choose?"

"I'm truly sorry for being so sudden, I'd like to do it today."

"Wha, today"

The sullen looking priest-kun reacted to my words.

"Is there any problem?"

"The ceremony is Miko--"

"It's fine."

The Miko interjected Priest-kun.

Priest-kun seems like he still has something to say, but he can't go against a Miko's will, thus he falls silent.

It seemed like I shouldn't butt in here, so I explain to them various things to obtain their approval to utilize the techniques I used during Tenion Temple Ceremony.

At first, Miko Surya and Priest-kun seemed reluctant, but the moment I told them that it would decrease body contact to a minimum--.

"That is wonderful! Surya-sama, let us make use of this idea!"

--Priest-kun immediately gave his consent.

Apparently, Priest-kun seems to be in love with Miko Surya.

Miko Surya looked drawn back by his enthusiasm but she gave her approval

too.

The Miko left to prepare for the ceremony, and Priest-kun led me to another priestess who helped me change to ceremony clothing.

"Please wait a moment until Miko is ready."

We were told that, so I enjoyed some tea together with Liza and Nana.

A priest came by while we were waiting.

"Earl-sama, I hear that Shiga Kingdom is a very prosperous country. Some even say it's the wealthiest country on this continent."

Err? What's with the abrupt flattery?

So I thought, but then I got what was going on after seeing the AR indication.

He's the person in charge of this temple's fund raising.

"I have no idea as to whether our country is the wealthiest or not, but I do think it is prosperous. By the way Priest-dono, as a gratitude for all the trouble I put on Miko-dono, I would like to contribute to this temple, whom should I refer to for that?"

"Oh then, that will be me."

When I offered that, the fund raising priest burst out with smiles and took the offer.

I wasn't asking for a smile from a good looking guy in particular, but the moment was just right, I took my contribution from the storage bag and gave it to him. 100 gold coins should be enough. And also.

"And this small bag is?"

"That's something for Miko-dono herself personally."

"Personally is it?"

"Yes, Miko-dono of Tenion Temple who took the same ceremony got really exhausted afterward, thus that item is to help her with the exhaustion."

After I explained the extra bag to the puzzled looking fund raising priest, he looked like he got it, called an apprentice miko who seemed to serve the miko and gave her the small bag.

"Earl-sama, the preparation for the ceremony is complete."

I ask Liza and Nana to wait in the waiting room and head to the ceremony room.

I've expected this more or less, but the rate of exposure is also high with this ceremony.

It might be partly due to Miko Surya's visual impairment, but she's not trying to conceal her skin herself, I'm not sure where to look at.

Body contact isn't needed since I'll be using Telepathy and Mind Magic, but I forgot to tell that there was no need to expose her skin.

I can't exactly pause the ceremony now, I should make sure to speak of it next time.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

I clear my mind and face the ceremony.

The ceremony procedure is the same as with the one at Tenion Temple.

I expressly chant mind magic [Mind Connection] and connect my mind with the Miko's.

I also use Telephaty skill to assist with the mind alignment.

『What a mysterious feeling.』

Miko Surya muttered in astonishment and then she began to plea for God.

『--O God. Great God whom we worship.』

Oh? The plea is a bit different than the one for God Tenion.

It seems Miko Surya's plea has been answered, a bright light falls from above.

Fiery light that looks like it'll cause sunburn. It feels stinging on my skin like being under the midsummer sun in a beach.

Miko Surya's expression loosened up from the ecstatic one before.

Looks like she's entered the trance state.

『You who have come to challenge the trial.』

A dignified sounding male voice echoed in my head.

This seems to be God Heraruon's voice.

『Display your individual might.』

Do I have to fight an opponent specified by the god?

『Soon, a calamity that will shake this very country will occurs.』

Another national crisis huh.... I've been thinking, isn't this world too much of a hard mode for the native people living here?

『Show that you can bring it to an end as my representative.』

A luxurious ornamental golden sword floats in my mind.

Is this sword a proof to show that I am God Heraruon's representative?

『Once people revere my name far and wide, I shall give thee the proof.』

As expected of a god's trial.

That's quite a problem.

『O God Heraruon, what is this calamity like?』

I tried asking, but God Heraruon cut off the connection without a sound just like that.

Looks like he doesn't like playing catch with words like God Tenion.

Or rather, it's like I was listening to a recording.



"Calamity that will shake the country?"

"Yes, perhaps you have an idea about it?"

After the ceremony, during a break, I asked about the calamity to Priest-kun whose attitudes had softened.

"I do have one, but..."

He seems uncertain somehow.

"Please tell me anything, I'm not well informed about this country."

"Then--"

He finally talked after I said that.

"Do you know that this country comes under attack of swarms of Sand Demonic Scorpions twice a year?"

"No, this is the first I've heard of it."

I investigated the Sand Demonic Scorpions on the Map while shaking my head.

There are level gaps between 5 and 30, and they come in groups of 15 and 20.

I dunno how many of them will come attacking, but they indeed possess quite a danger for the scale of this kingdom.

Though, the kingdom probably has a countermeasure against the swarms considering it happens twice a year anyway, I don't think that's the kind of opponent that necessitate me to [Display my individual might].

"Usually, priests dispatched by Heraruon Temple and the kingdom's 『Clan of Wand』 and 『Clan of Sword』 repel them, but..."

Priest-kun faltered to say it clearly.

Come to think of it, there was a coup d'etat or rather, an internal dissension, and the [Clan of Wand] was overthrown.

From the name, [Clan of Wand] is probably responsible for thinning out the Sand Demonic Scorpions from outside the range, but since that clan's battle force has been cut off due to the internal dissension, this might be dangerous.

Normally, you'd have thought that they removed [Clan of Wand] because they'd be fine even without them, but judging from the master swordsman and the muscle brain siblings last night, I'm afraid that there's a possibility of them taking the hegemony in delight without thinking of the consequences.

"Is there anything else?"

"If you don't mind folklores, there's a legend about 『Land King』 sleeping in the withered labyrinth protected by barrier of sandstorms."

According to Priest-kun, Land King was a servant of God's Nemesis that destroyed temples all over the world a long long time before the founding of Sania Kingdom, around 2000 years ago.

This one is a completely folklore level of story, but it seems more likely to be the trial from god.

That barrier of sandstorm is probably the stuff I saw before arriving at Sania Kingdom, going there directly is a simple matter, but I won't be able to clear God Heraruon's order of [Once people revere my name far and wide] if I go and defeat it there.

Since it seems like we have to wait here for the time being, I'll go stealthily tour Sania Kingdom with the girls standing by at Solitary Island Palace and gather some info.

However, before that--.

"One last question."

I asked Priest-kun before I left the temple.

"Do you know about Golden Sword?"

16-20. Sania Kingdom (1)

Satou here. Eating cuisines at a new land may sometimes make you sick or you may find them unpalatable, but I think both are parts of real pleasures in trips. I'd like to refrain from having grotesque cuisines though.



"--Golden Sword? Why are you asking about that?"

When I asked Priest-kun if he had an idea about Golden Sword that flashed in my mind during the God Heraruon trial, he looked at me with obvious wariness in his eyes.

"There was a Golden Sword in the image imparted to me by God."

"W-what!"

When I told Priest-kun the truth, he stood up in surprises.

It seems to be quite a shock.

"It's the truth. Thus, I believe it's an article related to Heraruon Temple."

Priest-kun opens his mouth after hesitating for a while.

"...That sword is a treasure of Heraruon Temple, the 『Golden Sword Herarusauph』--a sacred sword lent by God Heraruon long ago in ancient times."

--Divine Arms huh.

According to Priest-kun, Heraruon Temple is currently lending the sword to Sania King.

"You're lending a treasure of the temple?"

"Yes, the temple... doesn't have a capable enough swordsman to brandish 『Golden Sword Herarusauph』."

Priest-kun sounded forced somehow.

"However, it's not like we readily lend it to Sania King whenever. By having the master swordsman wield 『Golden Sword Herarusauph』 during the Season of Gnawing, we're showing people the might of God Heraruon."

Master swordsman--the old man from that sword dance huh.

Additionally, the [Season of Gnawing] refers to the two occasions where Sand Demon Scorpions attack the kingdom in swarms.

Searching on the Map, I see that the [Golden Sword Herarusauph] is in the mansion of [Clan of Sword] inside the royal palace.

I also saw how it looked at with Space magic.

It's a huge sword with an almost two meter long blade made of Orichalcum, there's relief carved on its blade to its grip, moreover, there's a sun-colored topaz like gem embedded on the base of its blade. That's quite a gaudy sword.

"Is that 『Golden Sword Herarusauph』 lent permanently to Sania King?"

"No--"

Priest-kun who had a bitter expression on his face floats a smile with a sense of superiority.

"--It will be returned to Heraruon Temple after the Gnawing is over. And we

of the temple will restore the brilliance of the Golden Sword with our secret technique."

I see, looks like Heraruon Temple is in charge of maintaining the sword.

We talked a bit more and left the temple afterward.



""Master Nagasaki!""

The siblings of [Clan of Sword]--Zanza boy and Myufa came for Nana when we left the temple.

Their timing is just right, I'll dig some info about the 『Golden Sword Herarusauph』 out of them.

"We plan to have some tea after this, wanna come with us?"

We dropped by a store that looked like a fusion between a tea house and a bar, and I asked the siblings about the Golden Sword while we were having a light meal.

Liza is focusing on goat skewers, while Nana has picked a girl-like choice of yogurt furnished with date palms as her dessert.

"--Golden Sword?"

"I hear that the master swordsman will be using the sword during the Season of Gnawing."

They looked puzzled for an instant when I got to the topic, but then they quickly switch and begin to boast about the Golden Sword.

"The holy sword Herarusauph sheds golden light like the sun!"

"Secret Art unleashed as the Sun Gem on the blade is shining is the best!"

The siblings talked about the sword in turns.

Come to think of it, I've never had these Sun Gems on my hand.

It might be a local treasure of this country, or belong exclusively to God Heraruon.

"So the master swordsman can use the Secret Art?"

"Yeah, that's right. However, uncle-- the current master swordsman still hasn't obtained that 『True Sun Slash』."

That name sure tickles the chuni heart.

"That's why, I'm gonna obtain the 『True Sun Slash』 first and snatch away the master swordsman seat."

"No, I'll be the first."

After declaring that, the two look at Nana who's enjoying the yogurt date palm.

""So please let us train under you, Master Nagasaki""

"I refuse, so I inform."

Nana coldly replied the two's passionate entreaty.

""No way~""

"Found you! Zanza-sama! Myufa-sama!"

""Geh, oh no.""

Zanza boy and Myufa siblings dashed out of the store when they saw a man who had an aura like a stern sergeant at the tea house's door.

They probably sneaked out of the [Clan of Sword]'s training.

I see the lively bunch off and think about the plan next.

Let's visit the bar during busy times later and gather some info there.



"Huh? Where's the other girls?"

I went back to the Solitary Island Palace since I got some free time, but there were only Lulu and Lady Karina.

"Pochi-chan and Tama-chan are at school, Arisa, Mia-chan, Tina-sama and Sera-sama are working hard on the new dress design at the capital."

Lulu told me about the girls.

"Ah, Satou-san."

Zena-san went back from the gate that connects to the capital. Unusual enough, she's in her military uniform.

"May I return to Seryuu city for a little while?"

"Yes, I don't mind, but did anything happen at Seryuu City?"

"Actually, Earl Seryuu has sent a letter regarding my little brother's engagement."

Since Zena-san's little brother, Yukel-kun raised quite an achievement during the Divine Punishment uproar back then, his engagement with the daughter of Earl Seryuu, Auna, might have progressed further.

"Shall I accompany you there?"

"Actually--"

Apparently, Earl Seryuu has dispatched a Seryuu Earldom's small airship to deliver the letter.

That's quite a VIP treatment.

Additionally, since a labyrinth has appeared at the Seryuu Earldom, the territory had been given a special preferential for the airship allocation compared to other territories.

"Please bring this with you. An emergency signal will be sent to me if you pull off the pendant top."

"Yes, thank you very much."

Zena-san right now should be able to block most physical attacks, so I might be being overprotective here, but I gave her the emergency pendant just in case nonetheless.



"Uwaa, there's a lot of vegetables and fruits I've never seen before."

Lulu sounded very happy at Sania Kingdom's market.

Just like me, Nana and Liza have disguised themselves by changing their skin color brown and hair color using magic tools.

Lulu and Lady Karina are with their usual appearances.

"Ah! These dates palms are so cheap! Only a tenth of the labyrinth city's dates!"

It seems to have ignited Lulu's shopping spirit.

We brought a huge amount of three types of date palms, sampling fruits from colorful cactus-like plants and lychees.

"My? Grains like rice, wheat and also leafed vegetables are quite expensive here."

"They're imported goods from foreign countries so I point out."

Nana answered Lulu's question.

This country also produces leafed vegetables and root crops, but considering the lack of water here, it must be quite challenging to grow them, resulting in high prices.

"Are those goat meat I wonder?"

"Looks like meat from reptiles called sand crocodiles are sold cheap here."

"Master, I want to eat the sand fish with glittering scales so I entreat."

Goat meat is expensive, the main dish here is majorly centered on sand crocodiles and sand fish.

"There's still some time until lunch, let's have some later."

"I'm already looking forward to it so I declare."

I'm not sure what makes Nana attracted to the sand fish, but she's not the only one intrigued by the sand fish's taste, the other girls and me are too, so it's definitely going to be on our lunch menu later.

"It's handicraft and folk craft from here on desuwane."

Lady Karina are looking at the craft goods lined up on the stalls, brimming with curiosity.

Lady Karina's demonic breasts whose presence is reinforced more by the gravity unintentionally sucks my eyes.

They're fascinating as always.

"It seems like they're made of claw and shell remains."

Just as Liza's said, lots of the handicraft are made out of Sand Demon Scorpion's material.

"What is this ruby-like thing?"

"That's a fragment of scorpion ruby y'see."

Apparently it's processed from the Sand Demon Scorpion's crystalline eyes.

"There's nothing but fragments here desuwa."

"Go to a legit jewelry if you wanna get some legit jewels."

As told by the stall keeper, we went to a nearby jewelry and found scorpion ruby similar to the one from earlier and sapphire-like gems called Scorpion Holy Gems.

"Looks like there's a variety of size to the Scorpion Ruby desuwa."

"This Scorpion Holy Gem is blue colored gem similar to sapphire and aquamarine, so I inform."

Lady Karina and Nana's eyes are gleaming at the jewelry.

Apparently, these two love stuff with glitters.

Contrary to its name, Scorpion Holy Gem isn't actually holy elemental, but as a gem, it's used as a material for many different types of magic tools.

Scorpion Ruby has an effect to amplify fire and explosion elemental magic, many magicians attach it on the tip of their wand.

There were also equipment and shields made out of Sand Demon Scorpion's shells, and also claws, and fangs at the armor store.

It looks like the Sand Demon Scorpions are both a disaster and a source of income for the industry in this country.

I'd better not try to exterminate the Sand Demon Scorpions with a large scale magic or something.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Here's your boiled sand fish and sand crocodile butter roast. Please wait a bit for the pilaf, okay."

Nearing lunch time, I ordered what Nana and the others wanted at a restaurant nearby.

"Starving~"

"It smells nice nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi's noses peeked out of the shadow on my feet, sniffing the smell.

When I put my hands on their noses, their faces shook and then they went out of the shadow while cheerfully saying, "Got found~", "We were found out nodesu~."

"Is it lunch break time?"

"Aye!"

"Yes nanodesu!"

Guess it's fine then, let's eat together with the two.

"And here's a hearty sania pilaf plate and extra large portion of various meat skewers."

Waitress-san carried the next main dish to the table.

The pilaf plate is furnished with sand crocodile, sand fish, all sort of vegetables, date palm and pineapple-like fruit that I'm not sure of, very lively.

"That's some grand feast, mister. Are you a foreign merchant?"

A Sania merchant who sat next to us talked to me when he saw our table full of dish.

"Oh yes, I am. I'm here to purchase scorpion ruby and the folk craft."

I made up some random excuse with the help of Deception skill.

"Then you should watch the sand demon scorpion hunt."

"Watching sand demon scorpion hunt?"

"Yeah, there's tour ships going out to watch peeps hunting the Sand Demon Scorpion at the small sand sea."

Apparently, the ordinary Sand Demon Scorpion hunt is a show.

Maybe it's like whale watching and fish boat?

"Isn't it dangerous?"

"At this season, only the lost ones, or the young ones--"

"Young organism?!"

Pestered by Nana, we ended up deciding to go watching the show.

Well, it sounds interesting and shouldn't be any danger to the members here.

When I turn around, the dishes on the table have mostly been emptied.

Lulu and Liza have secured my shares, but this should be about time to make an additional order anyway.

"You've got quite an appetite, dear customers."

Waitress-san said that in astonishment while taking the empty plates away.

"Should we bring the novel food out?"

"Please do."

Liza nodded in eagerness.

After waiting a while, they brought out roasted palm of sand crocodile, and a huge broiled sand fish head.

--It's more ordinary than I thought.

That thought occurred in my mind for a moment, but then I noticed that there was something wrong when I saw the expressions on Lady Karina's and the other guests' faces.

I might have gotten a bit too corrupted by monster dishes.

The taste itself is good, Lady Karina who was hesitating is eating it normally now.

"Did ya hear about the 『Clan of Wand』's downfall?"

Attentive Ears skill caught a conversation nearby.

The fall of the Clan of Wand in the internal dispute seems to have been spread amongst the townspeople too.

"Yea, I heard that."

"Good riddance."

"Those 『Clan of Wand』 are one nasty bunch 'fter all."

"But the problem here, can the 『Clan of Sword』 manage the next Gnawing when the Sand Demon Scorpions come attacking."

"They've got their special moves, they should be fine don't they? I saw it myself on hand when I was enlisted on the front line, they cut up those huge and hard Sand Demon Scorpion y'know."

Men with good builds were having the discussion.

From what I heard, these men seem to be former soldiers from a campaign.

"This is why you're an idiot. The scale is too different y'see."

"Scale?"

"You ever seen the absurd amount of remains at the processing facilities?"

"Well yeah I do..."

"So what's your point."

"Stop beating around the bush and spit it out."

"The majority of the Sand Demon Scorpions were defeated by the nasty 『Clan of Wand』, the 『Clan of Sword』 and us who were fighting on the front line only smashed the leftovers."

"Then, if this goes on..."

"This country's done 'fer."

I see.

"Don't be too pessimistic you. 『Ain't the next Season of Gnawing still two months away.』"

An optimistic drunkard finished with that, but the other men began to discuss where to run to if they had to in low voices.

Looks like this country is in a more critical situation than I thought.

"Full~"

"Pochi's tummy is full too nanodesu. It can only hold more meat now nodesuyo."

Is that really full?

I sent Pochi Tama and their bulging stomachs back to the royal capital and we decided to watch the sand demon scorpions hunt.

I'd like to see how the local people defeat the sand demon scorpions.

◆◆◆[Clan of Wand] Haifa◆◆◆

"Haifa-sama, please think this through again."

"Be quiet. This is the only way to take back the 『Clan of Wand』's authority."

Haifa pushed aside the maid and raised her wand.

Several black sand tornadoes are towering to heavens in front of the mid sand

ship they're riding.

"O 『Barrier of Sandstorm』! Haifa of 『Clan of Wand』, bearer of Sunlight Wand orders you. Undo the seal and make a way at this instance."

The Sun Gem on the tip of Haifa's wand shines as if reacting to her words.

And there were something else that reacted to that Sun Gem's light.

"The sandstorms are splitting!"

Ahead of the sand ship, the sand tornadoes slide to the sides like a curtain.

The crew shouted in surprises to see the magnificent spectacles unfolding before them.

"What's that?"

"Black shadow?"

The crew voiced their puzzlement to see the view between the sand tornadoes.

"They're Sand Demon Scorpions! Swarms of Sand Demon Scorpions are coming our way!"

Swarms of Sand Demon Scorpions showed up from the opening of the sand tornadoes.

"To the starboard! We're running away full speed!"

"Halt."

Haifa calmly stopped the sand ship captain who was panicking.

"There is no need to fret. What do you think we set up this many monster warding bonfires for."

Just as Haifa said, the swarms of Sand Demon Scorpions marched on while avoiding their ship.

"Just as I've guessed, they're not fully grown up when it's not the proper times."

"The proper times?"

"I'm talking about the Gnawing."

True to what she said, the Sand Demon Scorpions that showed up are twice to thrice smaller than the scorpions during the Season of Gnawing.

"D-don't tell me!"

"It's not like 『Clan of Wand』 is breeding the Sand Demon Scorpions."

"Twice a year, there are times when the Sandstorm Seal naturally comes undone. We call it the 『Gnawing』."

The Sand Demon Scorpion swarms disappeared while the two were talking.

"Now, let's set sail while we have the chance."

"W-where to?"

Cold light dwells in Haifa's refined eyes.

She didn't reply to the captain, and calmly pointed at the space opened by the [Sandstorm Barrier].

The ship slowly advances like it's in fear of the sand tornadoes.

There's a ruin of city sunk under the sand ahead, Haifa and her entourage steps into the 『Sandstorm Labyrinth』 while being protected by her bodyguards.

Seemingly unable to bear the silence anymore, the lady maid talks to Haifa quietly.

"Are the Sand Demon Scorpion swarms earlier..."

"Yes, they're heading to Sania Kingdom."

"Why do those scorpions ignore the neighboring countries and always come to our country."

Haifa sends a dark smile at the lady attendant's grumble.

"That's their objective."

"Objective?"

"They want to kill Sania King in order to undo the seal that binds their

master."

"Master? Don't tell me--"

"Yes, it's the Land King sealed within the Sandstorm Labyrinth."

In front of Haifa, the Land King bound by the sealing chains stands still in the depth of an abyss at the center of a large hall.

"How repulsive..."

Ignoring the lady attendant who covered her mouth, Haifa stepped toward the Land King.

Holding an unknown yellow gem unlike the shining Sun Gem on the tip of her wand.

"Haifa-sama, what is that?"

"The 『Yellow Gem of Soul Bind』 left behind by our founder, Yellow Clothed Sage-sama."

"N-no way--"

The shocked lady attendant looks at her master's face while having a cramp on her face.

"Yes, I will rule over the Land King, and rain destruction upon the ingrates at Sania Kingdom."

"It's impossible to rule over the Land King!"

Mixed with grandiose gestures, the lady attendant's words are turning rough as she tries to stop Haifa.

"That's not true. There are legends of the queen of God Kingdom Lalakie controlling both the Land King and the Sea King in the past."

"That's just a fairy tale!"

"Silence. There was a forbidden spell for that on a book left behind with the 『Yellow Gem of Soul Bind』."

Haifa eyes look down upon the confused lady attendant and the guards.

"You guys! Stop Haifa-sama!"

""YES!""

The lady attendant and the guards who tried to stop her were blown away by a weak explosion, as Haifa took a step forward.

"Now, Land King. Abide by me--"

With nothing in her way, Haifa held up the [Yellow Gem of Soul Bind].

16-21. Sania Kingdom (2)

Satou here. I've never gone on a whale watching, but I've been out on the open sea on a ship. I think eating tempura made of the fish you catch there is the best luxury you could have gotten.



"Huh, there's more people than I imagined here."

We went to watch the Sand Demon Scorpion hunt we heard about during our lunch.

This seems to be a form of amusement in Sania Kingdom, a lot of people have gathered at the harbor and we will be riding two canoe-sized ships separately.

"Master, there is no young organism here so I report."

Just as Nana said, since this can get dangerous, there's no children here.

"Master, it appears that the warships over there will be doing the hunt."

Liza points at three warships.

According to the info on my Map, there are seven fire magicians, three wind magicians, and three swordsmen of the [Clan of Sword] in addition to the sailors who are equipped with bows on board those ships.

When the warships departed, the tour boat we were riding on also followed after them toward the Small Sand Sea.

I saw a structure that looked like breakwater about three meter big and hundreds meters long although it was hard to distinguish since it was sand colored.

"What's that breakwater-like thing over there?"

I asked a nearby sailor since it piqued my interest a bit.

"Ah, that's to goad the Sand Demon Scorpion swarms during the 『Gnawing』."

After listening to the sailor's explanation, I get what the breakwater construction is for by looking at the Map.

The [Clan of Wand] magic probably kill the Sand Demon Scorpion swarms once they're goaded to various locations.

After crossing the breakwater and sailing for about two hours, the warships lowered their sail and put lamb meat on a crane-like thing.

"The wind magicians will spread the smell of that carrion and then the scorpions will come enticed by the smell."

One of the sailors explained the warships' actions.

"Master, it's coming."

Liza found a Sand Demon Scorpion coming from a distance.

The minitruck-sized Sand Demon Scorpion is walking on the Small Sand Sea like it's swimming.

"Master, the archers on the warships are playing hooky so I report."

"Aah, they're there for the Sand Crocodiles and the vultures. Basic stuff like arrows ain't gonna work on the scorpion's thick shell."

A nearby sailor negated Nana's indictment.

"Ooh! The magicians have begun their assault!"

The passengers cheered out loud when they saw fire bullets and fireballs shot from the warships toward the Sand Demon Scorpion.

The majority of the attacking magicians are the fire magicians. Some of the wind magicians also participated in the assault but most are just watching. Looks like their role is to help the ship travel and to lure the Sand Demon Scorpions.

"Aren't earth magic more effective in desert?"

"Like an earth magician gonna take part in this dangerous work. They're not running out of jobs to take."

Passengers who was well informed about magic exchanged words.

"It doesn't seem to be very effective."

Just as Liza said, the magicians seem to be third rate, the fire and wind attack magic are repelled by the Sand Demon Scorpion's shell, most aren't very effective at all.

It does gradually shave down the scorpion's health, but the scorpion will likely get on the warships first.

"The boss's about to show up."

A merchant who seemed to be a regular pointed at the stern of the center warship and shouted out loud.

Turning my gaze there, I saw three [Clan of Sword] men standing there.

"Let's do it!"

""OU!""

They yelled out, dashed from the stern to the bow of the ship and jumped on the Sand Demon Scorpion along with the momentum.

"Special Move--<<Shell Breaker>>"

"Special Move--<<Hairsplitting Thrust>>"

"Special Move--<<Hairsplitting Thrust>>"

One of the special move broke the scorpion's neck shell, and then the second and third swords gouged it.

The scorpion hasn't fallen from the attacks as its scissors come attacking at the three who are on its back.

The three seemed to have predicted that attack, they jumped off the scorpion's back and landed on the Small Sand Sea.

"Master, they're not sinking on the quicksand so I report."

The sand on the Small Sand Sea is too fine grained, you will sink on it like on snow field or water if you land on it.

Looking closer, the swordsmen' shoes are shaped like snow boots.

"Those are shoes made from the Sand Membrane found on the Sand Demon Scorpion's legs."

The merchant then amicably told Nana and also didn't forget to promote his wares, "Please have a visit to Tonbell Company if you would like to order a pair."

Before long, the three swordsmen killed the Sand Demon Scorpion without the magicians' help.

"Everyone, the show is still not over yet."

The regular customer spoke to the sightseers who were leaving the boat's side after the battle was over.

The wind magicians come to the ship's bow, wield their wands and begin to chant.

Once the chant is over, a rope stretches out of the ship's bow moving like a living creature and twirls around the Sand Demon Scorpion, stopping it from sinking into the sand.

This time the warship crews are frantically pulling the rope up. Looks like the last spurt is done with human strength.

Meanwhile, the three swordsmen are leisurely sitting on top of the Sand Demon Scorpion.

They're behaving like some kings or children gang boss.



"Master, the scorpions are coming again."

Liza turns toward a slightly remote part of the Small Sand Sea.

Looks like the second Sand Demon Scorpion showed up while they were taking apart the first scorpion. It's a bit smaller than the earlier scorpion.

The warship crews suspended their work and intercepted the scorpions.

"Ah, more incoming."

The third and fourth scorpions came up.

The number of scorpions shown on radar keeps increasing.

"There sure is a lot of them."

"No, something's wrong, there shouldn't be this many when it's not the Gnawing Season."

The regular customer negated what I said in fluster.

From what I heard before, the next [Gnawing] should be in two month time.

"Honored guests, there's something wrong going on. We're heading back to the harbor."

"Please wait a bit. The boat over there will be in danger if this keeps up."

I borrow a long bow from one of the crews.

"Stop, arrows won't work on those guys."

"Is that right?"

I lightly shoot an arrow.

The arrow whose head was glowing red easily pierced a Sand Demon

Scorpion.

Since the bowstring was weakly attached, I had produced a minimum amount of magic edge on the arrow tip.

"I-Impossible!"

"Killing a scorpion with bow and arrow!"

The crews and the passengers were surprised to see a Sand Demon Scorpion killed in one shot.

"I will help too."

Liza took steel javelins out of her magic bag and quickly killed the scorpions one after another.

"Uwaah, it's a Sand Worm!"

Nana beat down a worm that came out of the sand next to our boat with her round shield.

It probably came out to prey on the Sand Demon Scorpions.

I see that the warships have started to escape from the scorpions.

"Now then, let's flee together."

We shake off the Sand Demon Scorpions and go back toward the harbor.

The number of Sand Demon Scorpions shown on my Map is enough to swallow the kingdom's capital whole.

The trial given to me must be for me to defeat that vast amount of Sand Demon Scorpions with the [Golden Sword Herarusauph], no doubt about it.

Looks like I've gotta break a leg to do that without using magic, but I'm gonna clear nonetheless it if that's the trial.

First of all, I guess I should go back to the royal palace and ask the master swordsman if I can borrow the [Golden Sword Herarusauph] huh?



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you

might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"What tomfoolery are you saying at this time of emergency!"

I was able to have an audience with the master swordsman at the royal palace, but he laughed me off when I asked if I could borrow the [Golden Sword Herarusauph].

"Stop talking nonsense."

The master swordsman whose face turned dark red from anger took the top brass of the [Clan of Wand] with him and left the room.

Zanza boy and Myufa siblings who had been asking to be Nana's pupils were the ones who guided us here.

"Earl-sama, what do you need the 『Golden Sword』 for?"

Zanza asked curiously.

"Yeah, that sword is nothing good at all."

"Myufa!"

Myufa who spoke out in resentment was chided by Zanza boy.

"But Nii-sama."

"Don't say it Myufa."

The siblings exchanged words filled with implications.

"But it's because of that sword, father is..."

"It can't be helped. Compensation is necessary in order to bear the power of God in our body. I'd gladly offer my lifespan or anything if I can become the master swordsman."

The sword looks to be one dangerous item.

Having a girl with a long lifespan as my loved one, I'd like to refrain from using an item that can reduce my lifespan.

Maybe I should make an imitation of the [Golden Sword Herarusauph] the master swordsman carry and use that instead?

God Heraruon's orders were [Show that you can bring it to an end as my representative], and [Once people revere my name far and wide, I shall give thee the proof], therefore, as long as the people think the one I have to be the real thing, it should be okay, I think.

"Zanza, Myufa! What are you doing loafing around here! Get to the assembly quick!"

Zanza boy and Myufa got taken away by a man who came for them.

According to the Map information, Sania Kingdom's troops have started fighting the Sand Demon Scorpions in the Small Sand Sea, but they've only come in contact with the small scale swarms.

It should be about 5-6 hours before they collide with the real swarms.



"I see, that's the 『Clan of Sword』's trump card huh."

There are Sand Demon Scorpions next to the departing warships of the [Sania Kingdom] and [Clan of Sword].

According to AR readings, those flag-bearing Sand Demon Scorpions seem to be tamed monsters.

--That's.

I found a familiar object on the head of the Sand Demon Scorpions.

A magic tool called [Screw] that Weasel Empire used to control monsters.

"Master, if you'd like to snatch that sword from that man, allow me--"

"No, even if we've got the permission from Sania King, I won't make the move until he's fallen in combat."

I visited the Sania King before coming here and asked if I could borrow the Golden Sword, and he easily gave me the permission.

He's probably trying to have me clash with the [Clan of Sword] and chip away their power.

I can understand if it's during normal times, but I can't believe he's trying to reduce his own army war potential right when an unexpected [Gnawing] started.

Sania King is either an excellent conspirator far capable than me or a foolish ruler.

I thought of liberating the confined [Clan of Wand] for an instant, but since Haifa left a deep impression on me, I didn't feel like doing it.

"Master, I've bought the Sand Yacht, so I report."

"Thank you, Nana. Shall we go then."

We boarded the yacht Nana bought, followed after the warships and got to watch the battle above the sand.

"I see, they let the tamed monsters wrestle with the wild ones and use that chance to drive the screw to create more tamed monsters."

They probably came to an agreement to remove the [Clan of Wand] because they had confidence in this strategy.

However--.

"There's just too many scorpions."

"I'm of the same opinion so I inform. Many of the scorpions have come in contact with the warships so I report."

The Sand Demon Scorpions that have climbed the warships are killed by the Clan of Sword's special moves.

Those special move things seem to be specialized in killing the Sand Demon Scorpions. They're killing those scorpions at a pace unbelievable for the difference in levels.

"Oh, looks like they're gonna use the 『Golden Sword』."

The master swordsman is standing on the warship's bow with a golden colored sword in his hand.

A swarm of around 50 Sand Demon Scorpions are coming toward him while raising cloud of dust.

"O God Heraruon, who witnesses from the heavens! O 『Golden Sword Herarusauph』! Eat my soul, turn into my power!"

The light that shrouds the Golden Sword wraps the master swordsman's body, very flashy.

"Secret Art--《Sun Slash》"

With one side slash of the master swordsman, around 70% of the 50 Sand Demon Scorpions have been neutralized.

Swordsmen of the [Clan of Sword] leap onto the reduced swarm of Sand Demon Scorpions.

Zanza boy and Myufa were among them.

"Special Move--《Golden Sword》"

The silver mithril sword that Zanza boy has is wrapped in golden light.

The sturdy Sand Demon Scorpion got cut up like butter when he slashed with the sword enshrouded in golden light.

I think it's a variant of Magic Edge skill, but looking at the AR reading of Zanza boy's MP gauge, the skill really has a bad fuel consumption.

"Guess this will be over without our turn?"

"Denying Master's prediction so I inform."

"Master, warships other than the master swordsman's seem to be overwhelmed."

Even without looking on the Map, the front line is gradually getting pushed back just as the two said.

The swordsmen had no choice but retreat to the center of the sand bank once swarms, twice, thrice the number of the 50 strong scorpions earlier, came.

Furthermore--.

"Wh-what the heck is that!"

"Have the Sand Worms gathered here to consume the Sand Demon Scorpions!"

The swordsmen shouted out loud when they saw a huge beetle larva-like thing that appeared breaking through the sand.

Its diameter is about as big as a sand ship's hold.

"Proliferation fever so I report."

Just as Nana said, the beetle larva-like things appeared out of the sand one after another, sinking the sand ships.

I can't exactly let those people die before my eyes, so I teleport those who were swallowed by those things and those who sank in the sand to the outskirts of Sania Kingdom.

"Master, it's coming."

Vast range of sand lifts up, surging in like a tsunami.

Our yacht is fine since it's supported by [Magic Hands], but the other warships have it rough.

The flagship that the master swordsman is riding on seems to have a good captain and crews, they've managed to prevent the ship from capsizing.

"N-no way! Why is that thing here!"

The master swordsman shouted at the thing that appeared splitting the sand sea.

"That thing should have been sealed in the Sandstorm Labyrinth which Sania King forbid anyone from approaching!"

It's hard to describe the form of that thing.

A sea anemone riding on a giant tortoise with numerous legs, each of the sea anemone's tentacles is as big as a Sand Worm, and it has numerous heads like a hydra.

"Damn you foolish king! Can't even do your only job!"

The master swordsman is getting wild.

"Master Swordsman-sama! Please look at the middle head!"

"T-that's!"

--Gegegeh.

A girl is attached to it like a figurehead of a sailing ship.

Moreover, the face looks familiar.

"Isn't that the Haifa girl whom we saved from the Sand Pirates?"

Liza who's good at remembering people's faces informed me.

"You damn 『Clan of Wand』! You even went as far as using your position to set up the sandstorm barrier in order to reinstate yourself!"

Looks like the master swordsman is familiar with Haifa too.

"But this is the end of your fate."

The master swordsman roared ferociously while thrusting out the Golden Sword toward the sky.

"No enemy can stand before the 『Golden Sword Herarusauph』 blessed by God Heraruon and my Secret Art, 『True Sun Slash』."

The golden sword pointed to heaven is thrust forward with a snap.

"Perish--『Land King』"

The master swordsman whose whole body was emitting golden colored light launched himself upon the Land King to stake it all on a do or die battle.

16-22. Sania Kingdom (3)

Satou here. I have some knowledge about ways to exterminate gigantic creatures. It was from a robot anime I watched, many times I nodded in agreement at the methods used in it.

I never thought that I would end up putting that into practice myself until I came to another world though...



"Secret Art--《Sun Slash》"

I'm currently watching the Master Swordsman rushing toward the gigantic Land King.

A crescent-shaped golden light is approaching the Land King's head.

--GWAMWUEEEEEEEE.

The light exploded at the Land King's head, and the shock wave raised a cloud of dust.

"--Did that do it?!"

The master swordsman went and raised a flag with his clichéd line while glaring at the cloud of dust as he fell.

Thought that's not really the reason, light pole-sized black whips come out of the dust cloud and assault the master swordsman.

"NUOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!"

The master swordsman parried the black whips.

The black whips and the 『Golden Sword Heraruoph』 clashed, scattering intense golden and black sparks around.

"He parried that well."

"He's also handling the next attacks well so I comment."

Liza and Nana exchanged their impressions of the master swordsman's fight while standing next to me.

"TCHHHHHHHH"

The master swordsman managed to parry the blows from several of the whips, however, he couldn't deal with a black whip coming diagonally from above and jumped up to evade it.

He's unexpectedly nimble for a heavyweight-class mass of muscles.

"Master, desperate situation so I inform."

Four black whips charged in to attack the master swordsman in air.

"Secret Art--<<Scorpion Ball>>"

The master swordsman made use of the recoil from using the move.

What a desperate battle if I ever see one.

The identity of the black whips came to light when the cloud of dust cleared away.

"Master, those black things appear to be that Land King thing's beard."

"Yeah, that seems to be the case."

Apparently, those things are the beard of one of the Land King's heads.

"Quite a close combat so I report."

An intense combat between the master swordsman and the freely moving Land King's beard is unfolding before us.

Haifa of the [Clan on Wand] stuck on the Land King's head seems to have suffered no damage as she's protected by crystal-like gem.

There's a reason why the Land King who's on a whole order of magnitude different level keeps on fighting the master swordsman.

"Crunch crunch~?"

"They're like snacks nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi suddenly showed their faces up from the shadow on my feet.

Just like the two said, tentacles growing from the sea anemone on the Land King's back have been catching the fleeing Sand Demon Scorpions, bringing them to its mouth and crunching on them.

Its attacks on the master swordsman feel more like swinging your hand to shoo a bug away than to kill an enemy of equal level.

But well, I have to praise the master swordsman who manages to keep parrying attacks that would have been fatal if even one hit him.

"Is the school over already, you two?"

"Aye aye sir~"

"Pochi made sure to do the end of blast greeting too nodesu."

The two made the shutan pose when Liza asked.

Pochi probably meant to say [end of class] there.

"Master, the master swordsman's reinforcement so I report."

Several sand ships approached the Land King.

"--We are the herald!"

Swordsmen of the [Clan of Sword] who saw the master swordsman's fight came forward to challenge the Land King.

Their attacks are repelled by the Land King's protective barrier, but that barrier's health gauge is decreasing every time their attacks hit it.

Mowed down.

Blown away.

The swordsmen keep on fighting recklessly nonetheless.

The Land King who was eating the scorpions while ignoring the swordsmen seems to find it annoying, it's inhaling greatly, getting ready to shoot a breath.

"Secret Art--<<Sun Slash>>"

The master swordsman's attack reached its wide open mouth.

However, the Sun Slash only managed to break the Land King's protective barrier.

"Awawa~"

"Oh no nanodesu."

"Master, it's a dangerous pinch so I report."

Tama, Pochi and Nana brought their peril to my attention.

"Don't worry."

Two white lights flying from the other side of the sand sea hit the Land King's eyes now it's lost its barrier.

--GYBMWUOOOOO.

The Land King screamed for the first time.

Even a gigantic creature would feel pain on their eyeball it seems.

""UNCLE!""

A sand ship that was standing by on the other side of the sand dune showed up.

Looks like Zanza boy and Myufa of the [Clan of Sword] are on board that ship.

It seems the white lights earlier were Sun Slash shot by Zanza boy and Myufa.

"Zanza! Myufa! We're gonna kill the Land King with the golden sword!"

""OU!""

With the master swordsman leading, Zanza boy and Myufa jump onto a slanting boulder on the desert and run on it.

Apparently, they intend to jump on the Land King's head from that boulder.

The Land King's beard come to attack them midair.

"Shoot!"

The master swordsman who was rushing in the air shouted.

"...■■■■ Air Hammer"

"...■■■■ Air Hammer"

"...■■■■ Air Hammer"

Wind magicians that remained on board the sand ships used their magic to forcefully changed the three's directions midair.

That was quite an acrobatic coordination.

They must have been trained from the twice-in-a-year Sand Demon Scorpion Hunt.

""""Special Move--<<Golden Sword>>""""

The master swordsmen and the two's swords are emitting golden colored lights.

Just when they were about to reach the Land King's head, they were stopped by the restored Land King's barrier.

"I'll do it!"

Myufa unleashed her finisher, creating a huge crack on the barrier.

"I'm sorry, Nii-sama."

"Leave it to me!"

Zanza boy's golden light sword hit the crack that Myufa made and completely broke the Land King's barrier.

""UNCLE!""

The two that landed on the ground along with the barrier fragments shouted

together while looking up.

"Double jump~?"

"He used Pochi's technique nodesu!"

I didn't see it myself but apparently the master swordsman landed on the Land King's head with a double jump.

"Perish, Land King!"

The golden light sword of the master swordsman is stabbed into the Land King's head.

Then the master swordsman shoved down the sword into the head.

--GYBMWUOOOOO.

The Land King screamed and shook its head.

"NUOO"

The master swordsman is clinging on the sword stuck on the Land King's head.

"Ah! It came off nodesu!"

"Fly high~?"

As Pochi and Tama were watching restlessly, the master swordsman got blown away in the air along with the golden sword.

Then the black whip-like beard rushed in to attack him.

The master swordsman managed to evade the first one by double jumping midair, but he couldn't cope with the second one coming from the side in time and got sent flying and bouncing on the sand sea at high speed.

"Stone skipping~?"

"It's the stuff you do at the river nanodesu."

Well it does look like one for sure.

The golden sword that fell from his hand is sinking into the sand sea.

I lengthen the [Magic Hand] and put the golden sword in the sand into my storage.

I'll teleport the master swordsman who's sinking in the sand to the outskirts of Sania Kingdom like with the others.

Priests and magicians have gathered at the outskirts, probably because I've been teleporting people there.

They surely would receive treatment in time even if I leave them alone now.

"Master, should we intervene, so I ask."

"No we can't do it here as that won't clear the trial's condition."

God Heraruon's order was to show off his power to the kingdom's populace, therefore the Land King has to get a bit closer the kingdom's shore.

I'll make sure to decrease the number of victim as much as possible for the time being.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Master, the Land King has come into view so I report."

The Land King finally came into our view after we teleported back to Sania Kingdom and waited at a high ground.

It should arrive at the port in an hour.

Swarms of Sand Demon Scorpions that are running away from the Land King have arrived at the port first.

Sania Kingdom's regular army and magicians are fighting them back, but they're having a hard time since the main forces, the [Clan of Sword] and the [Clan of Wand] aren't with them.

"It should be some time before the Land King arrive, let's give them a hand."

"Aye aye sir~"

"Roger nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi replied with the shupin pose, Liza and Nana nodded like they were saying "I've been waiting for this."

We jumped off the high ground and went from roof to roof toward the port.

Fort-like structures and iron fences buried in the sand are working to hold the Sand Demon Scorpions back from landing on the port.

However, the structures are squeaking, the iron fences are distorting.

Really drives down the feeling that Sania Kingdom is in a precarious situation right now.

"We'll back you up, so I gallantly inform."

Nana positioned herself between the soldiers and the Sand Scorpions, and cut off the scorpion's scissors in one slash.

""The 『Clan of Sword』 are here!""

"We can do it now!"

"Negative so I inform."

"We are subordinates of Earl Pendragon."

Nana and Liza corrected the soldiers who had a misunderstanding.

"Tally ho~?"

"Oh no, so many prey nodesuyo."

The two are running on the sand sea while cutting down the Sand Demon Scorpions in one hit.

Pochi must have said that because she was hesitating which prey to beat.

"Who're those brats?"

"Ain't them an elf and a dwarf?"

"A-awesome, they're stronger than the 『Clan of Sword』."

While watching that, I jump on one of the structures.

"W-who are you?"

"We're reinforcements."

"R-reinforcements?"

"Yes, the Sania King has given us his permission."

With the help of Deception skill, I made up some excuse to the soldiers on watch, took out a magic bow from the magic bag and took a stance.

I picked ordinary arrows from the storage and shot them at Sand Demon Scorpions located away from the girls.

Since I've put minimal amount of magic edge on the arrowtips like before, the Sand Demon Scorpions are sinking nicely.

"J-just who are you?"

I only reply the asking soldier with a smile and focus on decreasing the Sand Demon Scorpion's number.

"Something's coming from the sand sea!"

A scout soldier gave a warning.

It's probably because the sea anemone-like thing on top of the Land King has come in sight.

"S'that, a Sand Worm?"

"There's also Sand Bugs coming to prey on the scorpions, lots of them."

"--W-wrong."

A voice of despair was mixed among the confused soldiers.

Looks like there's someone who noticed the identity of that thing.

"What is?"

"That's the Land King."

"--Eh?"

"That's... The Land King from the legends."

The soldiers whose faces had turned pale looked at me with imploring looks.

Not sure why they were looking at me, but since I'd like them to quickly take refuge, I gave them an affirmation it with a serious look on my face.

"W-we've got to run."

"Run and what then! Behind us are the kingdom's populace!"

"B-but!"

The soldiers are stuck between a rock and a hard place as their fear and their sense of duty clash, so I'm going to give a push on their back.

"You should evacuate the people around the port."

"Evacuate? Right, we've got to lead them to safety!"

"H-however, Sand Demon Scorpions swarms will flood the city if we abandon this place!"

Looks like I haven't pushed their back enough.

"Please don't worry. Look, the reinforcements are coming over there."

Since I had defeated most of the faraway enemy, I put down the bow and pointed at the main street connected to the royal palace.

""It's the 『Clan of Wand』!""

The people riding on the back of the running camels are of the [Clan of Wand].

Sania King probably helped them escape their confinement.

『Everyone, come back here.』

I called the girls back with space magic [Telephone] so they won't get swallowed up in the [Clan of Wand] magic attack.

"Take position to bombard the Sand Demon Scorpions! The big one is coming later. Don't waste your mana!"

An elderly Clan of Wand person gave directives to his subordinates with a very loud voice belying his age.

"I'm baack~"

"Returned nanodesu."

Pochi and Tama who came back leaped and hugged me.

Nana and Liza came slightly later.

"Master the bombardment has started so I inform."

"That's quite the firepower."

The Clan of Wand's magic annihilated the Sand Demon Scorpions one after another.

Vivid enough to make [Clan of Sword] and regular army's struggle earlier seem sad in comparison.

The magic Clan of Wand used looks like explosion magic at a glance, but it's slightly different than the explosion magic we use.

A magic circle is produced before the wand before the magic is invoked, then that magic circle compresses the user's mana and shoots out.

I've never seen the formation of that magic circle, I think it's a local technique of Sania Kingdom.

It kinda feels similar to the vile magic circle Demon Lord Believers used somehow, but investigating further is too much work, ignoring it should be fine as long as the sparks don't come flying here.

"Now then, looks like it's about time for the star performer to take the stage."

The Land King is coming closer the port.

"Do not fret! With our 『Clan of Wand』 secret move, a creature that's merely big--"

The elderly person who was making a speech noticed something and stopped speaking.

"--Haifa? Did she take away the Sun Gem Wand and attempt to control the Land King--"

I see, that's how she got stuck on the Land King's head.

"All members, aim at Haifa!"

""ELDER?!""

The [Clan of Wand] people sounded perplexed at the elder's words.

"If the Land King was resurrected in incomplete state through the Domination Art, it should cease when the core of that art, Haifa is eliminated."

I'm not sure if the elder is telling the truth, but it seems the [Clan of Wand] people believe in it.

"Anti Sand Demon Scorpions attack might not work on it. Put as much mana as for when you're up against a Sand Bug or a Great Demon Scorpion!"

The [Clan of Wand] point their wands at the Land King.

Similar to the one Haifa carried, topaz-like gems are attached on the tips. Those don't seem to be Sun Gem.

And when they finished chanting, countless magic cannons were shot from the wands at about the same time.

"Tamaya~"

"Kagiya nanodesu!"

Tama and Pochi shouted like they were watching fireworks.

The magic cannons hit the Land King's barrier and broke it into pieces, scattering crystal-like glitters around. Quite a sight to behold.

The offensive capability of these attacks didn't seem to rival the [Golden Sword Heraruoph] that the master swordsman had, the Land King suffered little damage having only its outer skin scorched.

"Here comes the counter~?"

"Danger nodesu."

The Land King mowed down the structure where the [Clan of Wand] encamped themselves.

Furthermore, the Land King is taking a deep breath with its head pointed toward the royal palace.

This one would be dangerous if left alone.

"Wall of light?"

Liza muttered quietly.

Looking closely, there's a transparent wall enclosing the palace that shines faintly. It's [Protective Barrier: City Core] according to AR reading.

However, I'm not confident it could block that.

"Everyone, let's go."

It's hero time.

16-23. Land King's Subjugation Fight

Satou here. Directions in a play are important. Viewer's impression change greatly depending on the way one presents the play. Doing everything yourself, though rarely happen in tv shows and such, will have the opposite effect when found out, so you can even say that it's a forbidden move to take.



"Master, it's dangerous, perilous so I report."

Light particles have gathered in the open mouth of the Land King.

That's probably a preliminary stage of the Breath. Its aim must be the royal palace.

"You're right. Let's go help them."

I take the girls to the top of a tower on the line between the palace and the Land King.

"Master!"

Liza warned me with a tense voice right after we teleported.

She's looking at the middle head of the Land King that's just about to fire its breath.

Liza clads her magic spear with magic edge, ready to shoot out an extra large magic edge cannon anytime.

Nana has also begun to prepare for her force art, a magic circle is shining on her forehead.

"Leave it to me--"

I draw the [Golden Sword Heraruoph] I collected from the sand sea earlier.

The sword itself is about as powerful as the divine gift holy swords that heroes have.

The grip is carved with a holy verse, apparently it's read [Glory to God Heraruon] in a language from the age of gods.

I don't really care about that stuff, but let's try using it for now.

『Glory to God Heraruon』

The Sun Gem on the base of the sword shined brightly when I loaded the sword with mana and recited the holy verse.

It seems to have buff effects as it's giving me reaction speed up, physical ability up and such buffs.

That's fine and all, but--.

>[Golden Sword is demanding Life Force]

--Something dangerous shows up on the log and there's a Yes/No option below it.

I don't mind if it's simply using the health or stamina gauges, but not if it's draining my life and soul.

I promptly choose [No] and decide not to use the [Golden Sword Heraruoph]'s true power.

——GWAMWUEEEEEEEE.

The land king fired a dark red beam kind of breath.

"Secret Art--<<Sun Slash>>"

I shouted the special technique those swordsmen were using out loud and unleashed the copy-by-eyes version of it.

Golden blade of light shot out of the sword, clashing with the Land King's breath mid air.

The blade of light intensely scattered sparks around, bisected the breath vertically, and reached the Land King's forehead.

The light that was dampened by the breath broke through the Land King's barrier but it only managed to make a small wound on its forehead.

The breath that was divided by Sun Slash are coming toward us and the capital.

"I guess a shell-type skill isn't suited for countering a continuous-emission type skill after all."

I position the sword level to my eyes and cut down the breath into harmless particles.

It wasn't a Sword Skill but the space magic [Isolation Wall (Deracinator)] and [Dimension Slasher].

From outside perspective, it should like the [Golden Sword Heraruoph] I had ripped the beam apart.

As a proof of that plan's successful result, people at the palace and those who took shelter on the high ground raised shouts of joy.

Now that enough people's eyes have gathered on me, let's do a performance to increase their faith on God Heraruon.

"My name is Pendragon! With holy sword 『Golden Sword Heraruoph』

bestowed to me by the authority of God Heraruon, I will destroy this ancient monster Land King!"

I made it so that it would reach Sania Kingdom people's ears through amplification magic and wind magic.

While I was at it, I also used light magic to make the Golden Sword shine for stage effects.

"00000000000000000000000000000000HHHHHHH!"

""GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON!""

""PENDRAGON! PENRRAGON! PENGGRAGON!""

Cheers loud enough to shook the earth resounded in the capital.

Getting my name wrong is fine, at least it doesn't look like anyone gets the god's name wrong.

—GWAMWUEEEEEEE.

The Land King roared in anger though I don't think it has anything to do with

the cheers.

I thought it was going to use earth magic to attack, but it appears to be dedicating the magic to support its defense for the time being.

The Land King makes a step forward with enraged eyes.

Thud, thud, transmitting vibrations that shake your stomach with a gap at each steps.

"Landfall~?"

"The port is cracking nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi who have taken refuge behind Nana are looking at the disastrous scene of the port sadly.

Since I'm fully prioritizing on clearing the [Trial of God] this time, I've decided not to mind about property damage, though human damage is another thing.

I plan to give the material from Land King as the repair fee.

"Master, it's coming."

The sea anemone-like thing on the Land King's back extends its tentacles and swings it down while drawing an arc in the air.

Its shadow is falling on the place we are at.

"Awawa~"

"Oh Jesus, nanodesu"

Tama and Pochi who're looking at the attacking tentacles that are several meters long in diameter sound ambiguously happy.

"Spread out!"

"--Acknowledged!"

The girls jumped off the place with my instruction.

A few seconds later, the place we were standing on is pierced by the tentacle.

The tower broke down yet the the tentacle didn't stop its momentum as it

pierced the ground, even the tower behind it was tilting and barely standing.

In addition, several tentacles are tenaciously coming at me.

--This is bad.

There's a building sheltering people at a direction one of the tentacles is heading.

Unfortunately, it's at the opposite direction of where I'm running to.

"Nana! Block it!"

"Entrusted with Master's order so I report."

Nana ran out while saying a line resembling a killing machine from somewhere.

She arrived with enough time left by the combination of Physical Reinforcement and Twinkling Movement, and blocked the tentacle with 15 [<<Flexible Shield>>] and a force art rivaling advanced level force magic [<<Flexible Wall>>].

The ground Nana stood on wasn't that sturdy though, it caved in with tremors, tilting the ground and buildings around her.

She could have blocked it more easily if she used the hidden [Fortress] and [Castle] capabilities on her equipment, but I haven't given the permission to use it.

Since the opponent's level is just 88, Nana who's amply supplied with defensive skills and magic should be able to defend against it easily.

"Ooo! Awesome!"

"Who's that beauty."

The people who were saved by Nana praised her in high tension after narrowly escaping death.

"Escape while you have the chance now, so I inform."

"O-ou! Gotcha!"

Urged by Nana, the people she saved ran out of the building toward the castle.

This should be enough attractions.

The high ground behind me has been broken off by the tentacles, and the way ahead is blocked off.

"--Now then, about time to go on a counteroffensive."

I shine the sword in golden colored light with light magic.

Two tentacles are coming to attack me diagonally from above.

"Secret Art--<<Sun Slash>>"

Since the technique imitating the secret art is weak, I cut the tentacles with space magic [Dimension Slasher] the moment the golden light hit them.

—ZYBMWUOOOOO.

The Land King screamed.

Looks like having its tentacles cut is painful even with that huge body.

I wave my hands at the people and rapidly shoot out the fake Sun Slashes.

The people cheered out loud every time I cut off one of the Land King's tentacles.

The cut tentacles fell on the downtown, breaking buildings and raising dense cloud of dust around.

The foul smelling blood of the Land King seems to be a strong acid, buildings that have been bathed in the blood are burning and raising white smoke.

——GWAMWUEEEEEEEE.

The Land King's roar echoed in the capital's sky.

Hidden behind the dust cloud and white smoke, the Land King shots out its beard clad in red light toward me.

"Beard Slasher~"

"Won't let you, nanodesu!"

Tama and Pochi chased after me and cheerfully intercepted the beard.

I'll leave the beard for the two to handle.

"Let's go, Liza."

"Acknowledged!"

While appealing to the people with the golden light emitting sword, I jumped to high grounds with Liza and ran toward the Land King's head.

I could hear a mix of cheers and screams from the people behind.

With those on our backs, we jump from capital building's roofs to roofs toward the Land King's head.

Tentacles and breaths assaulted us many times on the way, but we eliminated them all the same way we did earlier.

Since the sacrificed buildings are increasing geometrically, I'd better provide temporary dwellings and food later.

"Waaaa~?"

"Even rollercoaster is put to shame nanodesu!"

I heard Tama and Pochi's voices passing overhead.

Pochi and Tama who latch on the beard are going along it toward the Land King.

The Land King are swinging its beard around with tremendous speed, but that seems to be no different than an attraction to those two.

"Oh that looks nice."

"I-is that right?"

Liza tilted her head at my words.

—GWAMWUEEEEEEE.

A Land King's tentacles are coming toward us while roaring.

It's coated its tentacle with earth magic in an attempt to counter my blade of light.

"Liza, let's make use of that to go above the Land King."

"Acknowledged!"

We evaded the tentacle that pierced the ground by jumping, kicked the air and landed on top of the tentacle.

The heavy tentacle doesn't seem to be as agile as the beard.

I ran past the tentacle along with Liza while it was still stuck on the ground. What a thrill.

Other tentacles and beards were coming for us, but the Land King seemed to have miscalculated our speed, we didn't even have to evade them as we ran past them.

"Liza, attack the Land King's back."

"Leave it to me!"

I jump down the tentacles after telling Liza that.

——GWAMWUEEEEEEEE.

Rolled up sands on the Land King's feet is coming toward the its head like a tornado.

It's probably trying to get rid of me like removing bugs.

I deploy Magic Armor to defend against the sand tornado.

The Land King is swinging its head around, but it's not a problem since I'm holding on with [Magic Hand].

——ZYBMWUOOOOO.

The Land King screamed.

Liza is probably rampaging around on the Land King's back with Magic Edge Cannon and other finishers.

It seems to be in agony, the three heads have begun to randomly shoot out breath.

The breaths tear through the sand sea, annihilating mountains and islets on the sand sea.

I'm casually blocking them off, but there's no doubt that Sania Kingdom's capital would be in danger if it was hit by those breaths.

I arrived at the Land King's head and went to the forehead where the gem casket was located.

"Haifa."

I tried calling Haifa who was embedded in the Land King's head, but of course, there's no response.

I could have used Primeval Magic if I wanted to be doubly sure, but I don't

feel like going that far for Haifa's sake.

The usual space magic should be good enough.

"--Teleport, there."

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

I used forbidden spell of space magic [<<Aport Any Object>>] and took Haifa out of the gem casket.

Looks like she's still alive, but her condition doesn't look too good.

With Miasma Sight, I see that there's a curse-like magic line connecting Haifa and the Land King.

I produced holy edge on the tip of my finger and cut off the magic line.

Next, sprinkling elixir on her head below should be good enough.

After finishing her treatment, I teleported Haifa to the outskirts of Sania Kingdom like with the others.

I'm sure someone would nurse her there.

"Hm? What'st that?"

A wand with Sun Gem attached on it is left behind in the depth of the gem casket.

It's probably the wand Haifa had.

I took it with [<<Aport Any Object>>] like with Haifa and put it into the Storage.

--Crisis sense.

A yellow gem near the place where the wand was emits a dark yellow aura that's extending to me.

It seems to be called [Yellow Gem of Soul Bind] according to AR reading.

The real nature of the thing was made clear after I skimmed through its detailed info.

Apparently, Haifa attempted to rule over the Land King by using this.

It somewhat seems similar with the spell art that was put on Lalakie Princess I saved from the Sea King at the sugar route during the Divine Punishment. <TLN: Detailed events of this are on the light novel version.>

Since the spell art that was used to control the Sea King originated from the yellow skinned demon, this item was highly likely brought here by the same demon, or its followers.

"Gotta purge dangerous stuff away, purged you go."

I purged the [Yellow Gem of Soul Bind] with [Space Disintegrate].

——ZYBMWUOOOOO.

The Land King screamed out loudly from feet to head.

The purged parts seemed to cover a wide area.

"Choiya~"

"Deyaaaa, nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi unleashed their finishers on other heads of the Land King.

Looks like the damage passed poorly since they're not equipped with their true weapons.

"Tama, Pochi, come back here."

"Aye aye sir~"

"Roger nanodesu."

Tama picked Pochi up with Shadow Movement and went to me.

Tama's ninjutsu is way too convenient as always.

"Secret Art--<<Sun Slash>>"

I shouted out loud, showed an even flashier golden light than earlier, and cut off one of the Land King's head with [Dimension Slasher].

——ZYBMWUOOOOO.

The Land King screamed out loudly.

"Secret Art--<<Sun Slash>>"

I cut off another head of the Land King.

——ZYBMWUOOOOO.

The Land King is swinging its head around to try to shake us off.

"Wao~"

"Shake nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi hug my legs while screaming and having fun.

I contemplate a bit while patting their heads.

Only this head we're on remains.

Cutting this one off is simple, but I'd like a bit more drama for the [Make God Heraruon's authority widely known] part.

"Liza, I'm pulling you back here, okay."

『Yes, Master.』

I talked to Liza with space magic [Tactical Talk] and pulled her back with Unit Arrangement.

After telling Liza the plan after this, I teleport the three to where Nana is.

Left alone, I take the stance for the fake secret art for the third time.

"Secret Art--<<Sun Slash>>"

The third fake Sun Slash is a dummy that only consists of light.

I wrapped the Land King's body with purple colored light using light magic, and made it look like it guarded against the dummy Sun Slash.

Additionally, I restored two of the Land King's heads with advanced water magic recovery spell.

The Land King apparently is capable of restoring its heads to begin with, it's even adding more heads like Hydra of the Greek myth.

"Did I overdo it?"

That thought did cross my mind, but all is right since it accomplished my objective.

Now it should like like I'm in a pinch from the view point of people watching on the castle and high grounds.

Matching the timing of the Land King's head swing, I made myself get blown away to the direction of the capital.

Of course, I didn't forget to make the sword shine golden brightly to make it clear that I was blown away.

The direction is a bit weird physically speaking, but I think only a few would care about that kind of thing.

I crashed to a building like a cannonball, destroying several buildings.

Since I clad myself with Magic Armor, let alone injury there's not even a speck of dirt on my clothes, however I put dirt and clotted blood-like paints on my clothes for the sake of the performance.

『Master, are you hurt anywhere?』

"Yeah, I'm fine."

Liza asked anxiously through the still connected [Tactical Talk].

I'm more worried I'd make a mistake holding back and instantly kill the Land King.

"Oops, not letting my guard down--"

I blow away the falling debris and cloud of dust with one swing of my sword.

When I jumped from the collapsed building to the roof of a nearby building, cheers erupted from the spectators.

""""GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON!""""

""""PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON!""""

The spectators' cheers are heating up nicely.

"Now then, think it's fine to finish it off now?"

Sun Slash barrages are fine, but I'd like a more dramatic attack.

That reminds me, Zanza boy of the [Clan of Sword] mentioned something about a higher version of the [Sun Slash].

If I'm not mistaken--it's called [True Sun Slash] or something clichéd like that.

I'll borrow the master swordsman's lines while I'm at it.

"O God Heraruon, who witnesses from heavens!"

I expand golden light around me using light magic.

Of course I'm broadcasting my speech using wind magic the same I did earlier.

"O 『Golden Sword Heraruoph』! Eradicate the wicked apostle of demon lord with your radiance!"

I raise the sword toward heavens, at the same time, the golden light that wraps around me extends to the sky.

Furthermore, I change the shape of the simple light pillar that extends to the sky into the golden sword shape.

""""GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON!""""

""""PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON!""""

Looks like the performance went well.

For some reason, the Land King began to step back when it saw the illusion sword.

It might even go away with just a bluff at this rate.

"Secret Art--<<True Sun Slash>>"

I estimate the right time and swing down the sword while saying some embarrassing line.

Right when the illusion sword hit the Land King, I used the advanced level space magic [<<Divine Dimensional Blade>>] and cut the Land King's in two vertically.

""""OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOHHHHHHHHH!""""

The split Land King is sinking into the sand sea with people's cheers as the BGM.

"--Did that do it?"

I tried raising a clichéd flag, but it doesn't seem like it's rising up again.

This would have been the time for it to transform into the second stage if it were a demon lord, but it doesn't seem like the Land King, a mere familiar of a demon lord, has such regenerative capability, its corpse has been turned into an object on the sand.

""GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON! GOD HERARUON!""

""PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON!""

I keep the light on the golden sword to respond the rooting.

Well then, wonder if this accomplished God Heraruon's order?

16-24. Sania Kingdom (4)

Satou here. Cleaning things up is unexpectedly troublesome. Simply cleaning things is simple, but you've to pay attentions when you're trying to uphold the spirit of [A bird does not foul the nest it's about to leave].



"Hmm, looking at it like this, it really is huge..."

I muttered while looking up at the body of the Land King sinking at the center of the sand sea.

The Land King who had stepped inside the capital got pushed out to the sand sea in the middle of its fight with me.

"Master, I've retrieved the magic core."

"Thanks."

Liza comes back with a magic core that's taller than her on her shoulder.

A red magic core whose grade seems quite high, it's already a fortune itself. It's practically the same size as the Great Monstrous Fish Tovkezeera's core.

"Master, I have secured the crystal body at the head so I report."

Nana reported while shouldering an amber colored crystal.

I wasn't planning to get this one, but since I rescued Haifa through a peculiar mean, I took it anyway to hide that.

"Thank you--I'll store it right away."

I lengthen the magical psychokinesis that is the force magic [Magic Hand] toward the gigantic crystal and put it in the Storage.

"Now then you two, let's have a triumphal return to the royal capital."

Tama and Pochi have returned to Shiga capital after the battle, so there's only us three here.

I walk on the sand toward the port together with Liza and Nana who gave their affirmation.

The port's facilities have turned into mountains of debris after getting crushed by the Land King's feet and stomach.

Reconstructions will probably take a considerable amount of time and money.

""THE HERO HAS RETURNED!""

We could hear a huge cheers from the soldiers at the port.

""PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON! PENDRAGON!""

Looks like someone have spread my name, people who call my name wrong have decreased sharply.

That's fine and all, but it didn't end with just them calling my name as they began to stand before us, asked for my handshakes, hugged me and said their blessing.

I don't mind getting hugged by young beauties, but please just spare me from the rowdy men.

As I walked toward the palace while waving hands to people who called my name, a wagon stopped in front of us.

"Sorry for the wagon, but come and get on it! I'll get ya straight to the open space in front of the palace!"

"Thank you, it really helps."

Now I can avoid the machos' hugs and handshakes with this.

I thanked the soldier and got on the wagon with Liza and Nana.

The wagon's frame creaked when we got on it since the Land King's magic core is gigantic.

The route on the way to the palace is filled with people who went out of the shelter, extolling the god's name [Heraruon], and shouting [Pendragon] house name.

Good chance as any, I raise golden sword Heraruoph up high to reply them and let it shine golden colored light.

"Heraruon!" "Pendragon!" "Heraruon!"

Since the golden sword looks quite showy, the reaction is remarkable.

With this much praises from people, I'm very sure that the [Trial of God] is cleared.

However, not everyone was speaking good things.

There were some who reproached [Clan of Sword], or said something like, [It's good enough as long as the true owner of Heraruoph, Pendragon is here] or 「We don't need 『Clan of Sword』 and 『Clan of Wand』 anymore」.

There were also men who seemed to belong to the [Clanf of Sword] mixed among the soldiers, looking at me with bewildered and loathsome expressions on their faces.

I never planned to sow seeds of discords in this country, so let's deny it when I found a good timing.

I continued the golden light performance until we arrived at the open space before the palace.



"Sir Pendragon! You did well to subjugate the Land King!"

When we reached the palace, Sania King who brought the prime minister with him greeted me at the gate.

But they're not the only ones here.

"Apostle Pendragon! Good job accomplishing the 『Trial of God』!"

Head Priest of Heraruon Temple wearing a gaudy robe also greeted me in front of Heraruon Temple that faces the open space.

I don't mind you taking high ranking priests and miko(s) with you but please stop with the [Apostle] thing.

Now then, this situation is like when you're presented with the option [Which is it!] in a GP match.

Walking to the head priest here would be the correct answer for my objective, but I turned toward Sania King first.

Sania King breathed a sigh of relief, the head priest had a sour look on his face.

"King of Sania, I have killed the Land King as promised."

I smiled and lightly bowed per Shiga Kingdom's custom.

And of course, there is no such promise.

I ignored the king who was walking to me with both arms open and turned around toward the people.

"Everyone! Listen well!"

With the aid of Amplification skill and Deception skill, I announce to the surrounding people that Sania King requested me the subjugation.

"The 『Land King』 which played a part in the destruction of the world led by the 『Dog-Headed Evil God』 once has been destroyed by the power of great God Heraruon and divine sword Heraruoph!"

For now, I told them that the pillar of light reaching to heavens and the

gigantic golden sword shaped from it were all god Heraruon's power.

The people who have gathered here seem to believe that, they're unanimously chanting god Heraruon's name.

Alright, the [Trial of God] should be good with this.

Next--.

"However! Not everything was accomplished through the power of God and divine sword!"

After I said that, people begin to repeatedly call my name after God Heraruon, that's not it.

"Before I fought the Land King, the 『Clan of Sword』 and the soldiers stood on the front line to drive back the Land King's familiars, the <<Desert Scorpions>>, then the 『Clan of Wand』 and other magicians came rushing in to rout them."

For the time being, I'll praise the [Clan of Sword] and the [Clan of Wand].

Sania King had a grim look on his face, the expressions of people of [Clan of Sword] and [Clan of Wand] softened.

Additionally, the Sand Demon Scorpions being the Land King's familiars is just a setting I made up on the spot, I don't know if it's true or not.

"Furthermore! The one that protected the powerless capital from the Land King's attack was the King of Sania's 『Protection of King』!"

In fact, the shock wave from the breath attack I blocked would have destroyed quite a lot of the capital's buildings if it wasn't for the protective wall Sania King erected using the [City Core].

"By the words of God Heraruon!"

I shouts out while lighting the [Golden Sword Heraruoph] golden like its name.

--Ah.

I forgot to praise the priests who helped healing people evacuated from the front line.

But it'd be awkward to retrace my speech here, I'll give donations to other temples besides Heraruon Temple too later, forgive me with that.

"『Clan of Sword』 and 『Clan of Wand』, take each other's hands, and together be the shield that protects Sania Kingdom and the glaive that destroys invaders, shoulder Sania Kingdom, devotes yourselves to Sania Kingdom! Without forgetting your gratitudes for God Heraruon who watches over the kingdom, live well!"

I don't think this will make everything goes well in this country, but it'd be nice if it helps people facing toward a peaceful future even a bit.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

After the performance at the open space, I returned the [Golden Sword] Heraruoph to Sania King and visited Heraruon Temple.

Just like the time I received the trial, I reported to God Heraruon through the [Oracle Miko].

『--Splendid. I bestow you my mark.』

God Heraruon's words were really simple.

I think he should have said something more, but since I've completed the [Trial of God], my objective here, I'm not complaining.

>Title [Heraruon's Mark] Acquired.

>Title [One Approved by Heraruon] Acquired.

>Title [Heraruon's Saint].

>Title [Heraruon's Apostle].

Un, I don't need the last one.

After the short meeting with god, my consciousness returned to the temple.

Lights pouring down from heavens gathered into particles of light and turned into one slim dagger.

I catch the dagger that's slowly falling.

According to AR reading, it's called [Golden Dagger Heraruseph], seemingly a kind of [Divine Gift Holy Sword]. Just like the [Golden Sword] Heraruoph, the blade is golden colored, made of orichalcum with a small Sun Gem embedded

on it.

"T-that's!"

The miko who had come to sounded surprised to see the dagger on my hand.

The other miko(s) and priests who are helping with the ceremony also look shocked.

--Huh?

Miko-san eyes couldn't see, could they.

In fact, light isn't reflected in her eyes there--then it hits me that she's seeing the divine gift dagger through me who's connected to her with mind magic.

Her cheeks are flushed red as she looks at the dagger like a maiden in love.

As a miko serving God Heraruon, a dagger granted by God Heraruon must be special to her.

"It appears that God Heraruon told me to give it to you."

I present the dagger to the miko as I say that.

I've decided to give this dagger to Heraruon Temple as thanks for helping with the trial.

I hesitated a bit to give something I got from someone else, but God Heraruon himself didn't say that it was specifically for me, thus there's a chance that it's for the miko I'm with. That probability is low though.

I do hold a slight interest to research the small Sun Gem, but that's it, I'm not really interested in the thing besides for that.

"--U-um?"

I smile back at the perplexed miko.

"I'm only able to clear the trial because of your help and Heraruon Temple's cooperation. It is only right for you and the temple to keep this sacred treasure."

I'm good with just the mark anyway.

"Now, please take it."

The miko timidly reached for the dagger and reverently received it.

After admiring the look of a miko in love hugging the dagger, I leave the temple.



"Hee~, so that's the Land King's body~"

"Huge."

Arisa and Mia who are standing on a high ground at Sania Kingdom voiced their impressions while looking at the sunk Land King's body at the sand sea.

After finishing the work at Sania Kingdom--Greeting the king and transferring the right of Land King's body to Sania Kingdom, managing the dispute with the master swordsman, Zanza boy and Myufa siblings, holding a meeting with the head of [Clan of Wand], the father of the problematic girl Haifa, donating a large amount of money to other temples besides Heraruon Temple, and fulfilling requests to distribute food at the slums--I go on a tour with the girls.

The damage isn't that severe besides on the port and the sand marine facilities, so there's no shortage of places to tour around.

"That's Land King of the Dog Head's Four Devas.... I'm really glad it didn't come out in my active years."

Hikaru said that while trembling.

"But Land King should have been sealed in the 『Sandstorm Labyrinth』. I wonder who unsealed it?"

"Ah that's--"

I answered Princess Sistina's question.

The girl who caused the trouble at the Land King's seal, Haifa took a secret ritual handed down among the [Clan of Wand] with her, therefore she's apparently going to be executed per Sania Kingdom's law.

However, since it's a scandal that would shake the country if they told the truth, they'd tell people that the seal was undone by demons.

Well, if I wasn't happen to be here by chance, not only Sania Kingdom, the

surrounding nations would have also been destroyed for sure, thus I don't have any objection against the atonement miss Haifa has to take for the mess she caused.

"Next time, let me fight against a strong opponent desuwa."

"Nn, agree."

Lady Karina and Mia said some meatheaded thing.

Lulu, Hikaru, Sera and Princess Sistina are warmly looking at the two.

Looks like those girls aren't that interested to fight against strong enemy.

"Satou-san, the priests of this kingdom are really active aren't they."

"Yes, that looks like so."

Sera gave her praise as she watched priests giving out food at an open space nearby.

They're probably actively trying to gather believers because I've made generous donations.

"Nyu!"

"This is! Nanodesu!"

Tama and Pochi sniffed the drifting aroma and pulled my hands toward the source.

"Pilaf, totally delish~?"

"The goat meat skewers here are superb nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi who arrived in front of a store gave their recommendations to the girls who saw it for the first time.

Since Zena-san is in the middle of her journey to Seryu City, those girls are Arisa, Mia, Lulu, Hikaru, Sera, and Princess Sistina.

"Master, do sand fish live inside the sand?"

"Yes, that seems to be the case."

While replying to Lulu, I look for the sand fish swimming in the sand sea, and

project them on my palm with space magic.

"Ichi--Satou sure is skillful."

"Satou-sama's magic is always wonderful no matter how many times I see it."

Hikaru sounded a bit tired, Princess Sistina spoke with a longing look.

I relished Sania Kingdom's specialty products together with the girls, and in the end, we took a stroll on camels' backs in the arabian night-like night desert along with a caravan.

Sipping on a cup of sake while gazing at the moon on a shaking camels in the desert was quite something.



Now then, I managed to clear the first trial though with an over production.

I set the airship's route toward the [Garleon Union] on the western edge of the continent in order to take the next trial.

Wonder what kind of trial would God Garleon give me.

I lean my back against the airship's seat while feeling slightly anxious.

16-25. Garleon Union (1)

Satou here. There's this famous phrase, 'troubles both at home and abroad'. Is it not unrelated to every country, even with differences in severity?



"Pretty."

"Yes, it's just as you would expect from the so-called 『Jewel of the West』."

Mia and Princess Sistina who are accompanying me gave their praises as they gazed upon Garleok City scenery.

We have come to Garleok City where the Central Garleon Temple is located.

Right now, we're in a park that extends to the sea.

Lady Karina is also with us, but she's currently enraptured by the soy-sauce like smell drifting from the city.

Guess it's inevitable since she's a [Function over Form] type.

"It doesn't really smell like sea even though it's so close by."

"I'm sure it's because the other side is a river."

This Garleok City is enclosed by a river and sea on all sides.

There are waterways with gondolas inside the city, making it look similar to Venice somewhat.

There are also monster warding stone monuments engraved with Garleon holy symbol surrounding the city, and there's a lot of shellfish and fish farms in the area of ocean inside the monument encirclement.

Sea where no monster swimming around seems to be a paradise for fish and shellfish, their outlines reflected on my Radar are quite thick.

"Satou, I wonder, what are those?"

Lady Karina who's gazing at monuments on the sea side point at several bagworm-like objects hanging on them.

The figures swayed by the sea breeze are something.

--Geh.

According to the Map Info, those seems to be corpses of executed pirates.

There were scenes where executed pirates are hung on the rocky area of a cape in a pirate movie I watched back in the days.

It probably serves as a warning to pirates.

"Apparently those are executed pirates."

"Executed--"

Lady Karina averted her glance when she heard my explanation.

It's a barbaric world where people make an amusement out of executions, but it appears that this girl doesn't take pleasure in that kind of stuff.

"Cold."

"Now that you mention it, it does feel cold."

"Really?"

The temperature itself is mild, but apparently the wind coming from the sea is a bit chilling for the lightly dressed Mia and Princess Sistina.

It seems to be nothing for Lady Karina who grew up in the poor Muno Castle though.

I lightly use [Air Conditioner] magic to slightly warm up the air.

"Let's take a walk at the next marketplace and get something warm to drink."

I said that to them and walked toward the port where the market was.

The huge Garleon Temple can be seen in the middle of the city far away.

Unlike the luxurious Heraruon Temple at Sania Kingdom, this one has this sturdy atmosphere to it.

"Is this your first time coming to Garleon Union, Satou?"

"Yes, I've passed by it in the sky many times before, but this is the first I visit the city."

I affirmed Princess Sistina's question.

If I'm not mistaken, the last time I came here was when the neighboring Holy State Parion waged a war with this country.

"There's no king in this country, isn't there? Then who is ruling it?"

"It's by representatives of each cities."

Garleon Union is an alliance of nine cities, and this Garleok City that we are at acts as the leader.

Three of the cities including Garleok are managed by a confederation of merchants, while the other six form a kingdom. Thus, saying that there's no king is not exactly right.

Every city is prospering through marine product trades, many of the people are wealthy.

"Flowers."

"There's really a lot of extravagant houses around."

Perhaps it's because of the narrow land, lots of three-story housing complexes here, their verandas facing the main street are adorned with colorful beautiful flowers.

Walking around never gets tiring with the colorful houses here.

"--Music."

While we were gazing at the houses, Mia suddenly turned her head and strained her ears.

"This way."

As I followed Mia who pulled my hand, I could hear a fun sounding tune ahead.

"It looks to be a roadside performance."

Rather than troubadours, they look more like music-loving locals who are having a performance with musical instruments.

After the cheerful tune was over, we gave an applause and left the place.

"This city is like a paradise isn't it."

"Nn."

Mia agreed to Princess Sistina.

It's exactly as she says. Houses decorated with flowers on the sides of the road, alleys filled with people who play music and enjoy themselves.

Slaves pulling a cart full of luggage are reflected in my field of view.

From the Map Info, this city has a lot of slaves compared to other countries.

Additionally, from what I can see with space magic [Distant View], residents living in the lawless area at the city outskirts made of connected rafts are living an extremely poor life.

"I can smell something good!"

Lady Karina turns around with a bright smile on her face.

The centrifugal force shook her breasts dynamically, scattering its fascinating charm around.

--Nice sight.

"Mwu."

Mia raised her objection at my lewd glance in the face of [Poker Face]-skill sensei's guard.

She's quite an impregnable fortress even without Arisa around.

"Yo, young master of foreign country over there! How 'bout some famous Garleon's sea grapes?"

A high spirited man carrying green grapes in one hand called to me when we entered the marketplace.

The sea grape I know is a species of seaweed, but the ones the man is carrying looks like big common grapes, like muscats.

<TLN: sea grapes here refer to caulerpa lentillifera.>

"Go on and have a try."

I put one in my mouth as recommended.

It tastes like muscat just like its look.

The fruit is seedless, unusual in this parallel world, its fruit juice is rich on top of having thin skin, it seems to be a type that can be eaten whole with its skin like shine muscats. <TLN: vitis vinifera.>

It's slightly sour unlike the real shine muscats, but still less sour than other grapes, it's easy to eat.

"Give me ten bunches of it. How much?"

"Whoa there, you sure are manly leading those beauties with you. A bunch is one silver coin, but you can have ten for nine silver coins."

--Pricey.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

It's unusually expensive compared to other fruits sold in the market.

However, according to the Market skill, a bunch cost from two big copper coins to one silver coin, so it doesn't seem to be that much of a rip-off.

In the end, I haggled down the price a bit to seven silver coins and the four of us strolled the marketplace while snacking on it.

Apparently Mia takes a liking to this grape and I've been made to promise to buy a large amount of it on our way back.

Well, it's good enough that I want to let other girls taste it too so there's no problem there.

After more walking, we came to a fountain in the center of the marketplace.

The top of the fountain is decorated with a bronze statue of a good looking man wearing admiral-like outfit.

According to the plate at the bottom of the statue, he seems to be a hero from 800 years ago who drove away a pirate called [Skeleton King] who rampaged around the sea back then, he united poor countries that were fighting against each other and laid the foundation for the present day Garleon Union.

That Hero, Kite, led an invincible army that won against pirates and foreign invasions.

His Unique Skill must be a type that strengthens army.

There's a lot of stalls selling light meals and drinks around here.

"Roast squid~?"

"Fried boiled octopus on skewers look yummy too nanodesu."

When I look down to the source of the voices, there's Tama and Pochi who have joined with us before I knew it.

Judging from the time, it seems that they're on lunch break.

There should be quite a distance from here to Shiga Kingdom, but it looks like Tama's Shadow Ferry can travel to my shadow just fine.

Well, since she used up her mana, the area around here is probably her limit.

"There's Tama and Pochi here!"

"Halo halo~?"

"We were worried about Karina and came to see her nodesu."

Seeing the surprised Lady Karina, the two laughed like kids whose prank succeeded.

"Well then, why don't we have a light feast."

"Aye!"

"Yes nanodesu!"

"Nn."

Together with the girls, I ate roasted squid and deep fried skewers.

When I bit on the roasted squid, slight fish-like flavor spread out.

They probably used salted fish sauce on it, it goes really well with squids. How do I say it, the taste makes you want to eat it with cold sake and shochu.

The oil on the fried skewers is a bit much, but the octopus seems to have been seasoned, it's really meaty and tasty. This one makes you want to eat with together with a cold beer.

"Nice feast you've got going there young masters. How bout some booze here? It's a new booze created in this city you see."

A cup is three copper coin, so I decide to have a try.

"Then, give me a cup as a test."

"Hehehe, that's what everyone says at first."

The man puts a cup and opens the faucet on the barrel.

"Ale, desuno?"

"Hehehe, it might look similar, but it's a whole different stuff y'know?"

With the man's reply to Lady Karina's question and the faint barley scent drifting here, I'm wrapped with the feeling of expectation welling out from the depth of my heart.

The booze seems to have been cooled, water drops are latching on the copper cup.

I take the cup overflowing with white bubbles and gulp it down in one go.

--Flavor that permeates your body.

"Give me another."

I handed out the emptied cup to the man and asked for another cup.

"Hehehe, thanks for yer' business."

My heart is filled with elation to the point that I don't care with the man's triumphant look.

After several more cups, I came to my sense and asked the booze's name.

"We called it Jon's Booze, but its name is actually beer."

It really is beer.

I check the Map while asking for another cup.

John Smith-kun had really come to this country.

He's a Japanese boy summoned by Rumooku Kingdom, an owner of a lost skill that taught me the recipe for dried gourd.

He's also probably the one who taught the way to make this beer.

And then, I sensed glances and looked over there, Princess Sistina and Lady Karina had expressions like they found it slightly surprising.

Looks like they found my Beer Fever surprising.

When I teleported to Hayato's world back then, my mind was fully preoccupied with instant food and electrical appliances as souvenirs and forgot to buy alcohol.

Yet, indiscreetly going to another world just for the sake of booze, the cost is just too high, thus I've been patiently waiting for the opportunity.

But with this, I might not need to go to Japan for a while now.

"Sistina-sama, would you like to try a cup?"

"No, I'd like to refrain drinking in bright daytime."

The youth troupe and Lady Karina looked like they wanted to drink it, but things would get hectic if these girls whose resistance to alcohol is zero got drunk, so I didn't brought it up to them.

Since Arisa is probably going to want it, I'll go to the brewery and purchase several barrels later.

After that delightful event, we resumed the market stroll and continued to feast while walking on the street.

"Clamor~?"

"Nn, clatter."

Tama and Mia reacted to a commotion ahead of us.

We followed on the voices and came to a part of the port connected to the marketplace.

People have gathered around a fishing boat anchored to one of the piers.

"How terrifying."

"Ew, disgusting."

"I wonder if it's a monster?"

"It's flabby... Wonder if it's tasty?"

Apparently, a monster was caught in the net at the fishery.

With the Farsight skill, I saw that the caught monster was a Sea Orc.

Since it's a deep sea monster, it probably died due to the difference in water pressures when it got caught in the net.

Checking the Map, there was a herd of 100 orcs offshore.

Shallow waters and trenches are arranged like a striped pattern in the sea around here, but even though there might be more of them lurking deeper, since their individual strength is lower than a demi goblin, they should pose no problem even if they come attacking in swarms.

"What, just a monster huh--"

"And here I was expecting that they subjugated a pirate or something."

"You betcha, there's a lot of pirates lately...."

From the direction of the Sea Orc's commotion, Men that seem to be fishermen are walking here while grumbling.

"So is it really cause of that 『Skeleton Archduke』 guy?"

"Yeah, rumors say he claims to be the 『Skeleton King』's successor."

Some men passed by while having a flag-festered conversation.

Summarizing their talk, the pirate called [Skeleton Archduke] claims to be the successor of the pirate [Skeleton King] whom the hero from 800 year ago drove away, they've brought together the other pirates in the area under their wings.

"『Skeleton Archduke』 huh.... You think the rumor about Gaboz Kingdom being behind them is true?"

"To take over this Garleok City and become the leader of Garleon Union?"

Several nearby merchants who overheard the fishermen had that talk.

"It's just a rumor right? Even that greedy king of Gaboz Kingdom can't possibly join hands with pirates."

"More importantly, that we can't expand the farm cause those fin guys are multiplying is really problematic."

"Yeah, those guys cut the net and all."

"Burglars raiding warehouses are a also problem y'know?"

"Those raftsmen huh...."

"Well, not all of raftsmen are burglars."

"I don't like it, but we can't exactly drive them away."

"Yeah, we can't hire cheap laborers and sailors if those guys aren't around."

Not unlike Sania Kingdom that was suffering from domestic and foreign problems, looks like this Garleon Union has many problems too.

"Oh no, oh no~?"

"Master, it's terrible nanodesu! She's dying nanodesu!"

Tama and Pochi who were looking at the surface of the sea from the wharf beckoned me in a panic.

"--Mermaid?"

A finfolk kin girl in critical condition has been washed ashore there.

16-26. Garleon Union (2)

Satou here. Apparently, those who excel at crossdressing can look more woman than a real woman. And since they've been getting the help of image processing on top of make-up, finding a natural beauty is getting harder these days.



"It seems she's still alive."

"We've got to save her quick!"

"Nn."

I stretch out [Magic Hand] to pull the dying mermaid girl out of the water.

But before I managed to do that, a water splash erupted and blond ringlets were spread on the surface of the sea.

Apparently, Lady Karina beat me to it and made a dive into the sea.

Mia and Princess Sistina looked surprised to see that.

Lady Karina lifts the mermaid up to pass it to us, but of course, doing that means she'd sink into the sea herself.

It might be a good idea to let her play at the Isolated Island's beach more.

I lift up Lady Karina to the surface of the sea with [Magic Hand], take the mermaid girl, and pull Lady Karina by the wrist to the pier.

Her wet chest has turned into something incredible, physically speaking, but staring too much isn't good here, so I cover it with some cloth and use life magic to dry her.

"Extreme fatigue."

According to Mia sensei's diagnosis, the mermaid girl--or rather, mermaid little girl seems to have fainted due to fatigue.

There's no clansmen of hers around here on the Map, so she probably either drifted from afar, or she was caught by pirates and managed to escape.

"Okay, doesn't seem like she's hurt anywhere."

There were some scratches and peeled-off scales here and there on her body, I sprinkled magic potion on her to heal them just in case.

Since mermaids--finfolks breath through lungs, I'm thinking of leaving her treatment to the brownies on the airship and ask about her situations later.

I'll send her back to her home later as long as she wasn't getting cruelly treated there or something.



"Looking up close like this, it's quite an elaborate temple."

"Yes, those are some splendid-looking sculptures."

"Nn, gorgeous."

From a distance, Garleon Temple looked like a plain gray temple, but when we've gotten closer, it's clearly adorned with unique sculptures, it wouldn't be strange if it were registered as a World Heritage site.

Upon further inspections, the building isn't entirely gray, there's also colors of silver and unusual metal called black steel as its ornaments.

As one might expect from a central temple, there's a lot of wealthy looking

merchant on pilgrimage, and priests serving the temple busily coming and going.

--Hm?

A priest who was looking at the surrounding people like glaring looked surprised and ran into the temple when he saw me.

That priest had Appraisal skill, he probably found my title [One Who Challenges God's Trials] and went inside to report it.

They'll probably come for us if we just wait here, so we're just gonna take it easy and gaze upon Garleon Temple sculptures.

And then--.

"Satou."

Mia pointed to the entrance of the temple.

Girls wearing miko outfits are standing there.

No, apparently the beauty standing in the center is a boy.

According to AR readings, he carries the titles, [Shaman] and [Medium]. I did notice some male miko during Aze-san's oblation dance, but this might be the first time I've seen one outside the elf hometown.

From what I heard at my cousin's shrine, [Shaman (Fugeki)] is apparently the general term, and [Medium (Kannagi)] is a term for male miko, but it appears that [Shaman] in this world is used to refer males with Oracle skill.

As a matter of fact, none of the miko with [Oracle] I know has [Shaman] title.

The miko(s) are staring right at me while ignoring the pilgrims who have begun to pray around them.

There's no point feigning ignorance here, so I walk to them.

"Welcome to Garleon Temple--o one who challenges the Trial of God."

The shaman boy who was standing in the center greeted me.

The surrounding pilgrims who heard him were surprised and turned their gazes at me.

According to AR readings, the boy is called Sauani, he's this Garleon City

mayor's son.

"Nice to meet you, Shaman-dono of Garleon Temple. I'm Earl Satou Pendragon of Shiga Kingdom. I have come to take on the trial of God Garleon."

Even while feeling uncomfortable with the attentions, I greeted him back.

The boy and the miko around him looked surprised when they heard me.

They probably never thought that I would find out his gender right away.



Urged by an elderly miko, we were led to a guest room in the temple.

"This is the first anyone found out about my gender in in a glance. Do you have Dragon eyes or Spirit Eyes?"

For some reason, Sauani boy is getting all touchy, weirdly a bit too much, with me.

It seems Mia can't decide if she can [Guilty] me, her eyebrows roll around, she looks confused.

Lady Karina is munching on the snacks and tea while looking unamused, Princess Sistina is pondering who's the 'attacker' and the 'receiver' in a low voice. It seems like she's really been thoroughly educated by the former demon lord Shizuka.

"No I don't, it's just an observation I had. I know it from your build, you see."

I replied with something random yet convincing with the help of Deception skill.

Of course, I didn't forget to peel off Sauani boy in the meantime.

"The more contact we have the better for the oracle, you know?"

"There is no need to worry about that. By using the secret art of Heraruon Temple, we can perform the oracle simply with joining hands."

For some reason, Sauani boy looked dejected when I told him that.

--Why do you look so down.

Retorting with that would be my undoing, I'll take the [Silence is Golden] proverb to heart and ignore him here.

"I'd like to inquire God Garleon regarding the trial, what do you suppose I should do?"

"The temple has prepared for it."

The elderly miko answered my question in the dejected miko's place.

"By the Star of Fate, if your excellency miss today, you'd have to wait for another 10 days, what would your excellency do?"

"I'm ready anytime."

I powerfully nodded to the elderly miko.

After learning about the [Star of Fate] stuff at Heraruon Temple, I had Sera lectured me about it at the Solitary Island Palace, and knew that today was the best time for it.

"I'm sorry for being so sudden, but do you mind if we do it today."

"No, of course we don't."

The elderly miko smiled, and began to give orders to the other priests around.

Mainly for Sauani boy's preparation.

It went more smoothly than with Heraruon Temple and the ceremony began a few hours later.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

The flow of ceremony is basically the same as with Tenion and Heraruon Temple.

I expressly chant mind magic [Mind Connection], and connect my mind with Shaman Sauani's.

I also use Telepathy skill to attune our minds.

『Ah, Satou-dono is entering me.』

I heard Shaman Sauani's inner voice.

Spare me from your barefaced lust please.

『Sauani, please call out to God Garleon.』

I urged Sauani boy who was indulging on his lust and neglected the ceremony, then it finally began.

I miss the earnest Heraruon Miko Surya already.

『--O God. Our revered mighty God.』

Looks like each temple has their own way to call their God.

Responding to Sauani boy's appeal, a bright light falls down from heavens.

Even though it has this cool blue color, the light is hot like you're getting roasted in an oven. I can feel phantom pain prickling my skin.

The expression on the ecstatic Sauani boy loosened off.

Looks like he's entered the trance state.

『Reckless one who dares to challenge my trial.』

A gallant male voice that felt wild echoed inside my head.

Looks like this is God Garleon's voice.

『Command an army, and demonstrate your power.』

--Mumumu.

That one's outside my area of expertise.

I have a feeling that gaining an overwhelming victory over troops battle with the girls would not let me clear the trial.

『Use my servants to protect the country and eliminate the invaders.』

A golden ship's wheel adorned with jewels comes up in my mind.

Just like with God Heraruon's golden sword, this wheel is probably a proof to be recognized as God Garleon's representative.

『I shall give thee my mark when the people revere my name far and wide.』

This one feels similar to what God Heraruon said.

『God Garleon, who are this invaders?』

I tried asking him that, but God Garleon cut off the connection without a word.

Just like God Heraruon, looks like he doesn't like playing catch with words.



"『Command an army, and demonstrate your power』, is it?"

"Yes, that's right."

After the ceremony was over, I told the elderly miko and the priests about the trial and if they knew about the enemy I had to fight.

Shaman Sauani is currently downed.

"Those who have gained enmity of Garleon Union, I think it must be pirates."

"--Pirates?"

I reflexively asked since I couldn't imagine pirates waging war against an entire country upfront.

"Yes, a group of people who call themselves the successor of an ancient great pirate has been attacking seafaring ships coming to Garleon City, the situations have been rapidly worsening. Not only Garleon City troops, but even the union troops had been dispatched, but they were led around by the nose by the elusive pirates and always came back empty handed...."

Come to think of it, the rumor I heard at the port was about how this pirate called 『Skeleton Archduke』 rounding up pirates around the nearby ocean into

one united power or something.

"Is there no need to worry about neighboring countries invading here?"

I tried asking since invaders might mean foreign country aggression.

Garleon Union together with other neighboring countries had invaded the Holy State Parion after all last year, it wouldn't be surprising if they attacked back in retaliation.

"There was one before, but--"

According to a priest, surrounding countries are currently in the state of exhaustion because of monster stampedes from the Divine Punishment, they don't have the resources to invade another country at all.

Furthermore, apparently a hero dispatched by Saga Kingdom is patrolling the national borders on airships with 'monster cleaning' as a pretext, so even if a country attempts to attack another country, the watchdog hero will rout the army and make use of the remnants in the monster cleaning.

Since the hero Meiko I know likely can't do such things, the hero summoned after her must have a unique skill suited against army, or a charm/domination type unique skill.

Leaving that aside--.

"What about damages Garleon Union suffered from the divine punishment?"

"There is none, our country is under divine protection of God Garleon."

I see, right when I thought that, I noticed something.

"Did the neighboring Holy State Parion suffer any damage?"

"Yes, that appears to be the case."

The priest didn't clearly state it, but judging from what he said earlier, God Parion seemingly didn't protect Holy State Parion.

I mean the top brass of the temple were demon lords, and they even put [God's Fragment] into people, God Parion probably deserted them.

Well, God Parion central temple is the last stop anyway, no need to worry about it now.

"The conversation wandered off a bit. If Garleon Union does not suffer any damage, won't cities within Garleon Union attack other cities within the union?"

It doesn't seem like they're monolithic after all, thus there's a possibility of other cities going on a war to take the leadership position.

As for other possibility, neighboring countries might cause domestic problems inside Garleon Union to prevent the union from invading them.

"Is your excellency aware of Gaboz Kingdom?"

The elderly miko spoke of the name of a small country that's trying to take the leadership position of Garleon Union I heard in the rumor.

"No, not in particular."

"Countries within the union cannot attack each other with their army."

The elderly miko declared that.

"However--"

"It's not about ethics nor is it a wishful thinking. Countries within Garleon Union cannot break the pact they have signed under God Garleon's name."

The elderly miko interrupted me and gave an explanation.

The pact is far more powerful than even slave contract, even kings and city mayors who rule over City Core cannot undo it.

If they broke the pact, all of their populace will be given the unpardonable sin of [Betrayal].

Looks like exchanging some weird promises with Gods could get messy.

I should be careful.

"Well then, with current situations, the highest possibility is naval battles with the pirates then."

"Yes, that's right. If your excellency is going to lead the army, Garleon Temple will be happy to lend our Temple Knights."

"Is that fine?"

"Yes, it would be an honor for the Temple Knights if they can take part even a little in the God's Trial."

I see.

Yet the Heraruon Temple knights were not cooperative at all.

Well, that one was [Individual Strength], so their help would have been pointless anyway.

I've decided to leave the temple after figuring out an idea.

--Oh right, before that.

"God Garleon revealed something that looked like a golden ship's wheel to me, do you have an idea?"

"Yes, of course."

Guided by the elderly miko, I went to the central temple chapel.

"Satou!"

Mia who was touring the chapel quickly caught me when I got there, she trotted here, jumped and hugged me.

Lady Karina and princess Sistina followed after her.

"Were you and the girls here to look at that?"

"Nn, wheel."

Mia turned her head and looked up at the [Golden Wheel] adorned on the chapel wall.

"There's a legend told since the age of old in the temple, 『Master of the wheel, calls forth the Ship of God and soars through heavens』."

The elderly miko told us the story of the [Golden Wheel].

"Satou! The wheel!"

Lady Karina notified me about the unusual phenomenon happening on the

wheel.

The wheel is wrapped in a mix of deep blue and golden lights.

The light brightens and turns dazzling.

--What?

I'm struck with tremendous mana and feeling of awe from the wheel.

The next instant--.

The light suddenly disappears and silence rules the place.

"Th-the wheel is!"

The wheel that was hung on the wall disappeared along with the light, the elderly miko and other priests who noticed that shouted out loud.

However, there is no need to panic.

Because the vanished wheel is floating right in front of me.

"Miko-dono."

I grip the wheel that's floating in front of me while calling the elderly miko.

I felt like the wheel wished for that for some reason.

The moment I touched the wheel, it got smaller into the size that's just right on my hands.

"Now, then--"

Gotta negotiate with them to let me borrow the wheel until the trial is over.

16-27. Garleon Union (3)

Satou here. Speaking of aquarium, you may believe that dolphins are the star of the show, but I don't think you could dismiss the seals that can move in high speeds underwater contrary to their looks, and the cute penguins and their behavior.

That reminds me, I think my childhood friend who went with me said that they wanted to eat fried prawns when they saw spiny lobsters inside the water tank.



"『Command an army, and demonstrate your power』, is it--"

On our way back from Garleon Temple, I told what the trial was about to Mia, Lady Karina and princess Sistina who came with me.

"This looks to be my turn."

Princess Sistina's glasses sparkled for an instant there.

Come to think of it, feels like it's been a while since I saw her wearing glasses.

"Mwu, sea."

Mia pointed out that fact to princess Sistina while pointing her finger at the sea.

"Oh right... My golems can't float on water, can they."

"But they can help defending the coasts. I can also prepare wooden golems for you if we're going to let them on board a ship."

Wooden golem is generally not suited for combat-use, but since its fighting prowess far surpasses your average soldier, it should work fine against pirates.

"I also want to take part in it desuwa!"

"Agreed."

Mia nodded to reply Lady Karina.

Unlike princess Sistina, Lady Karina who specializes in close-quarter combat and Mia who controls individually high-powered artificial spirits aren't the type that can lead an army by themselves.

"Then, I'll be asking Karina-sama to cut through the front lines as a vanguard unit."

"Yes, bring it on desuwa!"

Soldiers' morale should go up with her looks.

"Can I ask Mia to command water spirits and bring advantages in naval battles?"

"Nn, will work hard."

I pat Mia who puffs out her chest while snorting, and we go to board the airship.

First of all, let's get a grasp of the situation.



"Satou-sama, no ships or people found in the airspace and sea surface around us."

"Thank you."

I jump out of the airship who has risen to high altitude.

"I'm going out for a bit. Stay in the air for a while."

"Roger!"

After telling that to the saluting brownie, I'm headed outside the Map using Flash Drive.

I went around Garleon Union's countries and the surrounding ones one by one and used [All Map Exploration] magic to collect information.

"There's a lot more pirates than I thought..."

There are more than 100 ships of various sizes, and each has 10 to 100 pirates on board.

I guess a group of a several thousands pirates is enough to fight a country.

However, many of the pirate ships are acting alone, only a few of them act in a group of three or more.

Their levels are split in two groups, 15-30 and 3-7, the former is 30% and the

latter is 70%.

The strongest looking pirate is level 43, even Lady Karina can win if they act alone.

The pirates mostly consist of humans and beastkins.

The sea beastkins are mostly of gillmen, and not a lot of mermaids.

Most of the pirates are either sailing around the oceans in a fleet of ships, or staying at independent towns and settlements located in groups of islands or areas of oceans with lots of reefs to make shaking off pursuers easier.

"And the Skeleton Archduke is--there it is."

The one who has that title is a ship captain of the flagship of a fleet of small warships, his level is surprisingly low at 24.

He's probably the type that commands people well, his individual strength itself is low.

I mean, even the ships he's commanding look more like an armed force of a country than that of pirates.

Though considering his skills; Deception, Negotiation, Persuasion, Threat, Coercion et al, he doesn't seem like an able commander....

"Fumu, am I just imagining things?"

About 30% of the pirate ships are heading toward the port where the Skeleton Archduke's ship is anchored.

Have they really joined forces, and do they really intend to attack Garleon Union?

"As for Garleon Union military forces--"

They have a lot of merchant ships, but not a whole lot of pure battle ships.

After leaving out the small ships used for protecting the coasts and discovering smuggling activities, there's only around 60 medium and large ships equipped with mana furnaces and mana cannons. Garleok City itself only has nine of those.

There are some excellent soldiers and commanders whose levels exceed 30, but they're few and far between, most of the fighting personnels are weak soldiers with single digit level.

As for mercenaries hired with money to guard merchant ships, more than half of them are criminals and former pirates who are shouldering offense, and there are even ships with active pirates working part-time as mercenaries.

These guard ships are mostly galley boats and galley ships, only a few are equipped with mana furnace.

There are around 90 of these guard ships in total in the Garleon Union.

The mercenary guards' levels are higher than the pirate's on average, but even the best one is only level 31, so you can say that their individual strength is lower.

If they bring the whole army together, they should be able to easily win against the pirates.

As long as they don't split with mercenaries or there is no city or country that secedes from the union, they should be able to win unless their commander is extremely incompetent.

Well, bringing the entire army together is the difficult part though.

"Now then--"

I went out to the open sea and checked out the depth dwelling monsters while I was at it.

The dangerous looking ones are only level 50-70 large monsters called [Those that Lurk in the Abyss], the other monsters aren't much different from any other oceans.

The Sea Orcs I saw at Garleok City port were also there, but it was just a swarm of barely 100 orcs, no real need to subjugate them.

"Next, the hometown of the mermaid we saved back at the port--found it."

The Map north of the Garleok City are dotted with mermaid villages, and one of them appears to be the mermaid little girl's home.

After gathering all the info I need, I return to the airship's deck with Unit Arrangement.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Welcome back."

"I'm back, Mia."

Mia who immediately found me, trotted and jumped to hug me.

She's rubbing her forehead on my chest.

"Don't tell me, you're done with the investigation already?"

"Yes, I haven't analyzed it yet, but I'm done with the information gathering."

I gave an affirmation to princess Sistina who said that half-jokingly.

"Y-you really were?"

"As expected of my... desuwa!"

"Nn, good boy."

Surprised princess Sistina, Lady Karina who's boasting like she did it herself,

and Mia who's standing on her tiptoes trying to pat me.

Got three different kind of reactions.

In addition, my Attentive Ears skill picked up the ... part Lady Karina was hiding, which was [Satou].

"Feels like we can conquer the world with Satou here."

"I'm not going to do that."

I negated Princess Sistina's joke with a smile.

Just conquering the world doesn't sound like a hard work, but I want absolutely nothing to do with the masochist game waiting at the end of the line, called reign.

"Next, are you going to check the rumors we heard at the port?"

"Yes, that's right."

Next, I need to investigate if there is a discord within the union and whether that Skeleton Archduke guy is really rallying pirates.

I caught a sight of a brownie in maid uniform coming into the room right when I was about to say that.

"Satou-sama, the mermaid girl has come to~"

Looks like I've got to postpone the investigation for now.



"●●●●"

>[Ffolk Language] Skill Acquired.

"Calm down, it's all right."

The brownie in maid uniform is soothing the panicking mermaid little girl.

『You're safe here, calm yourself, okay.』

I talk to the mermaid little girl while using [Translate] magic.

I thought of allocating skill points like I did at Sania Kingdom back then, but since it didn't seem to be related to the trial this time, I used force magic [Translate] instead.

『...Language of Nifu. Spoken by human? Where is this?』

The translation being rough at first seems to be a quirk of this magic.

『This place is near the port where you got washed ashore.』

『Human town?』

『Are you familiar with Garleon Union and Garleok City?』

The mermaid little girl shook her head to reply my question.

『I don't mind sending you back to your hometown if you're lost, how about it?』

『Nyua is not lost!』

The mermaid little girl got mad when I said that.

Nyua seems to be her name.

『Then, what did you come here for?』

『...Nyua is looking for hero.』

After hesitating a bit, the mermaid little girl spoke.

『Hero? You mean Saga Empire's hero?』

『There are many kinds?』

I apologize to the little girl who's tilting her head in confusion and continue on.

『And what will you do after finding a hero?』

『Nyua will ask them to beat the ice devil.』

According to the mermaid little girl, the ice devil--apparently a derogatory term for demon--brought an island of ice in the middle of the night, freezing the sea where her hometown was located.

Fearing the ice devil, apparently the mermaids were forced to move their homes to the sea near Garleon Union.

--Maybe demons are acting behind the scene here?

I tried checking the mermaid hometown on the map, but even though I found a huge iceberg, I didn't see a demon.

『Got it. I know a hero that can help you, I'll ask him to do something about it okay.』

『Really?』

『Yes, really.』

I exchanged promised with the mermaid little girl while also teaching her how to make a promise by linking little fingers.

"Turn the airship to the northwest. I'll forward the map to the steering monitor."

"Understood!"

I left the cabin and told the brownie in flight uniform and the girls that I was going to send the mermaid little girl back to her home.

"I'll be going to clean up the iceberg for a bit."

"--Wait a moment!"

Princess Sistina stopped me who had transformed into Hero Nanashi.

"What's the matter?"

"I want to see the iceberg!"

"Agreed."

"I'd like to see it to desuwa!"

I thought it was surprising of them at first, but when I think about it, an iceberg is something that can only be seen in a book in a world without television like this.

That said, I never saw one when I was on earth myself though.

"Well then, let's go see the iceberg once we send that girl back."



"Spetalsuum~?"

Tama, you mixed up 'spectacle' and the finishing move of the alien from the Land of Light.

"Seeing it with your own eyes feel amazing indeed."

"You only see it on news about global warming or special programs after all."

Arisa and Hikaru who have memories about Japan seem to have a similar impression with me.

"Nn, grand view."

"Indeed, Mia-sama. This spectacle is quite mystical."

Mia and princess Sistina were fascinated.

"Ah! Over there! The ice peeled off and fell to the sea!"

"Calm down, Lulu."

"I see strange creatures on top of the ice over there, so I report. Suggesting to capture it--"

Lulu and Nana are being noisy.

Even Liza looks high spirited even though she rebuked Lulu.

On the other hand, Pochi and Lady Karina are flabbergasted with their mouths open as they stare at the iceberg.

I thought they were being quiet, apparently they're captivated by the spectacle.

"...Great, nanodesu."

"...What, a, huge, ice, desuwane."

Let's not fuss over their disconnected speech.

We came here to tour the iceberg after sending the mermaid little girl to the temporary mermaid settlement.

Just as you could have guessed from the girls' reaction, I'm really pleased with the spectacle that was beyond all expectations.

"--Did you have your fun, everyone?"

Even though I feel a bit reluctant, leaving it alone would make the sea temperature around here drop, so I should get rid of it quick.

I extend the force magic [Magic Hand] toward the iceberg and store it into my Storage.

I collect the falling penguins and seals and send them into the sub-dimension,

I plan to deliver them back to their original habitat later.

I've heard that seals are tasty, might be a good idea to cook some of them.

"Master!"

"Master, that's!"

Nana and Liza point at the place where the iceberg was.

"Crystal of ice?"

"What is that I wonder?"

A gray magic circle appeared on the ice crystal-like thing, and something came out of it.

It has a glittering ice body, leaving a mystical impression to it.

"--Demon."

"Looks to be a mid one."

Just as the girls perceived, the thing that came out of the ice magic circle is a level 47 mid demon.

I thought the iceberg was drifting from some far away land, but apparently a demon was really behind it just like the mermaid little girl said.

『HYOOOOOOOO, my magical island of ice has disappeared hyou.』

....Oy.

That ending word ruins its mystical looks.

"Master."

I nod to Liza who asked me.

Liza points her spear toward the demon, and quietly shoots out a highly compressed magic edge cannon.

『Hyooooooooo--』

Liza's magic edge cannon pierced through the mid demon's chest in an instant, and then the magic edge cannons unleashed by Tama and Pochi right after finished it.

"Doesn't seem like I need this."

Lulu put back the acceleration cannon she took out of her space warehouse.

Mia who needs time for her chant and Lady Karina who doesn't have a mean for long-range attacks look disappointed.

The mid demon disappeared into black mist before our eyes.

In the end, we didn't find out the reason that demon brought the iceberg here, but it's all good since it resulted in destroying one of the demon's scheme.

Right now, my top priority is the trials rather than exterminating demons.

Just in case, I use fire and space magic to restore the seawater temperature back to its former state.



『--You killed the demon, and got rid of the iceberg?』

『Un, that's right.』

I visited the mermaid little girl's settlement as Hero Nanashi after getting rid of the iceberg and the demon.

『And I've warmed up the sea temp too, you can go back to your hometown soon~』

Maybe because it's been awhile since I turned into Hero Nanashi, I talked in Nanashi cheerful version and ended up keeping the tone up.

Once the elder told the news to the entire villagers, they happily jumped about over the sea surface.

After enjoying the villagers' dance who somehow look similar to dolphins', I'll be participating in the party the elder sponsored.

The dishes served in the party can't be said to be luxurious by any standard, however, it's undoubtedly a feast for the mermaids who have been living in

distress, so I'm grateful to it.

Besides--

『Hero-sama, how about some sea grape sake.』

『You're so strong, hero-sama.』

--I'm not complaining with the skinship these glamorous mermaids are giving.

『Hero-sama, please take this--』

I received a tamatebako-like present when I was about to leave. <TLN: from Urashima Tarou legend.>

Of course, there's no smoke that makes you grow old inside, it's a [Mermaid Drop] that enables you to breathe underwater.

I can easily do that already using water magic, but since it looks like it'll be useful for the trial this time, I gratefully accept it.

Now then, I've got to check if there is any discord within the union and whether that Skeleton Archduke dude is really trying to rally pirates together.

I should also procure war forces I could command in the meantime, maybe?

16-28. Garleon Union (4)

Satou here. I wonder when did wars begin to mainly turn into information wars?

I guess it's only natural, there's no point in amassing weapons without a battlefield, and using a weapon that has a good compatibility against your enemy is the practically same as having forces many times over.



『--Do you mean for me to betray Garleon Union?』

『Hahaha, not at all. The thought of tempting your majesty to violate the union charter never even crossed our mind.』

Some quite a timely conversation reached my ear.

On my way back from the mermaid village, I discovered one place that was

holding this scene while I was using space magic [Clairvoyance] and [Clairhears] to investigate if there was any discord in Garleon Union.

Though maybe it's only obvious since I chose a place with the most suspicious individuals around.

A highly nervous gentleman overflowing with small fry aura and an avaricious-looking nobleman continued their talk in the spectacle shown by my [Clairvoyance].

The nobleman is the second rank of Garleon Union, Gaboz king who's supposed to be wanting to take the leader position.

『King of Gaboz, it has always been on our mind, a kingdom ought to be ruled by a king.』

『In other words, you want to return Garleok City that was once turned into a democracy by the hero? Pusan Garleok?』

I see, the nervous gentleman, Pusan-shi is a descendant of the former Garleok royalty huh.

Looks like he's also an underling of the [Skeleton Archduke].

Map information is hell of a cheat as always.

『It's nothing like that at all... We only want to return to our rightful position. And then with the guidance of the strong king of the union, your majesty Gaboz, the country will go toward an unprecedented future.』

How do I say it, it truly is a depraved noble-like persuasion, all talk with no substance.

『I get what you proposed.』

『Then! You'd be our supporter, wouldn't you!』

In contrast to the all-smiles Pusan-shi, Gaboz king had a cold expression on his face.

『I have no idea what you're talking about. Heiz, he's a traitor of the union. Arrest and deliver him to Garleok City congress.』

『Should we send only his head?』

『No need to waste our salt. Let the guys over there deal with his head.』

『P-please wait, Gaboz king! With you as our leader--』

The guards took away Pusan-shi who was still trying to convince the king.

『Fool who wasn't even worth a clown wasting my time--give me the report.』

『Yes. The spy that we sent to Skeleton Archduke has fallen on their hands.』

The king snorted displeasedly to hear the head page's report.

『However, the [Pigeon of Blessing] the spy carried has brought back news.』

『Hou, just what you would expect from a [Sage Tower]-made magic tool.』

--Oh, those terms sure tickle one's heart.

If I'm not mistaken, Sage Tower is another name for the city where the great temple of God Karion resides.

I'm looking forward to visiting it already.

『And, what does it say?』

『Yes, the Skeleton Archduke is just a puppet of demons, and the demons intend to attack Garleok City as well as Garleon Main Temple to obtain the [Golden Wheel].』

『Hmmp, the demons' goal is the [God's Ship] huh...』

The [Golden Wheel] that showed up in their conversation is in my Storage, there's no chance of it getting stolen.

『You mentioned puppet of demons. So are they the Wing of Liberty bunch?』

『No, they don't seem to be demon lord believers.』

『Fumu, then we can safely assume that those guys won't play a part in this, can't we?』

The head page slowly shook his head before continuing on.

『We still do not know for sure, but there is a high chance that they have slipped in among the mercenaries hired as escort fleets.』

『Then, the escort fleets might raise a revolt right when the pirates come attacking huh...』

『It pains me to admit.』

That might be a bit bad.

Since two third of Garleok Union marine forces consist of the mercenary escort fleet.

--Well, I can think up a way to deal with them now that I know though.

『Our country will take a wait-and-see stance.』

『Understood. What should we do about the escort fleets?』

『We cannot possibly turn all of them into union forces. Guard merchant fleets of high importance with our own national escort vessels.』

The head page who has received the king's decree runs out to deliver the messages to other pages.

And then, the king looks up at me.

『That's the gist of it. We'll leave the rest to you, break a leg.』

Looks like he noticed that I was peeking through space magic.

Well, he's still a king who rules over a City Core regardless of how petty.

He apparently thought that a magician of Garleok city was the one doing the peeking, not me though.

"What's the matter?"

"It seems like Gaboz King isn't plotting to raise a rebellion."

I replied to the asking princess Sistina.

It might have just been an act because he noticed me looking though.

Afterward, I tried investigating other cities too, but all of them were just being gray, none plotted to betray the union by making use of pirates.

I personally thought that there would be at least one traitor among them, it was a bit unexpected.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

『Your excellency archduke~ your acting earlier was splendid nano.』

A female pirate with heavy make-up talked to a lanky nobleman-looking pirate.

The latter is the Skeleton Archduke, a male human with a skeleton-like face--no, with a skeleton mask worn on his face.

『Now the pirate union has been successfully formed, and Garleok City will be destroyed just like your excellency's wish nano.』

『U-un. But, was that really okay?』

The voluptuous female pirate clings on the timid young man.

Since it doesn't only apply to her chest, but her entire body, I'm not really envious.

『It's perfect nano.』

『O-oh good... Hey, how long should I keep doing this?』

『Until the real Skeleton Archduke comes back nano.』

I see, this young man is a fake huh.

I thought he's the real thing since he has Skeleton Archduke title.

However, there's no other Skeleton Archduke within the known Map.

『It's okay nano. You can definitely do it nano.』

『B-but, crashing an island of ice into Garleok City and then sinking it with swarms of monster during the confusion, is that really possible?』

I see, that mid-demon-laced iceberg I retrieved back then was brought here for that purpose huh.

『No worries nano. The real Skeleton Archduke can control even demons nano. Merely puncturing a hole on the bottom of a warship is--』

In the middle of her words, the female pirate looked up and glared at me then she threw a dagger here.

『--Seems there's a peeping tom here nano.』

Looks like the female pirate noticed me.

I canceled the space magic and returned my consciousness here.

"It appears that the pirates are going to band together and attack Garleok City."

"That's terrible desuwa!"

"Nn, danger."

Lady Karina and Mia were enraged.

"So it will really turn into naval battle?"

"About that--"

I told them about the information I got from space magic.

The pirates, or rather, the demons manipulating the pirates are probably going to control monsters to do destructive acts.

"Don't tell me, the woman manipulating the fake Skeleton Archduke is?"

"Yes, she's possessed by a demon."

I found no trace of demons when I was checking things back then, but they were suddenly there before I knew it, just like the stuff with iceberg.

Good grief, you really can't let your guard down.

"For now, I'll bring along the temple knight commander to go meet the mayor."

"Should we wait here?"

"No, some pirates that are on their way to congregate at Garleok city are using the opportunity to attack small merchant fleets, I'd like you girls to rescue them."

I told that to princess Sistina.

"Not extermination?"

"Yup, try to only drive away the pirates if you can."

I gave an affirmative to Mia's question.

If we cull out too many pirates, the fight would be over before I could show off [Group Valor] after all.



"The pirates have formed a union and they're going to attack Garleok City?"

I'm meeting face to face with the mayor using the temple's connection.

I could have done so as an earl of Shiga Kingdom if I wanted to, but it apparently would go faster through the temple, so I asked for an intermediation.

"Yes, I caught sight of multiple fleets of pirates cruising together when I was sending a lost mermaid back home."

"And you know they're heading to Garleok City just from that?"

"I have no positive proof. But every one of those fleets was heading toward Garleok City. I think it would be best to be vigilant about it, no?"

The mayor frowns after hearing what I said.

The cost of preparing for war must be high, it's not like I don't understand why he doesn't want to do it indiscreetly.

"--Mayor."

The temple knight commander who had been keeping silent up until now opened his mouth.

"Multiple pirates coming here is the truth. Temple Knights will abide by the master of the 『Golden Wheel』 and deploy our ships."

"『Golden Wheel』 you say? Was he recognized as its master?"

"God Garleon himself has granted his permission to have it lent."

"--It can't be, the 『God's Trial』."

The temple knight commander solemnly nodded.

After looking shocked for a while, the mayor folded his arm and went lost in thought.

After a while, the mayor looks at me and opens his mouth.

"I'll have you know however, we cannot allow you to take over the right to command Garleok City fleet."

Even though it's the home turf of God Garleon, the union isn't exactly a religious nation, so I also think it's only natural.

And not like I wanted to take over the command anyway.

"However, you are allowed to board the flagship as an observer."

"Mayor--"

"Of course, temple knight fleet can go with our fleet too."

"--Our gratitude."

It was settled before I could say anything somehow.

Well, it all worked out just like I wanted so I'm gonna ride on it.



"Hold it right there, noble youngling!"

The day after, I was stopped by a bearded admiral when I was going to board the flagship.

"Like hell I'm gonna let a noble command my fleet! Seems you've cajoled the mayor, but I'M the admiral of this fleet!"

The admiral rattled on while scattering his saliva around.

"Yes of course. I've been allowed to get on board in order to closely watch the commanding prowess of the best admiral in Garleon Union."

"Hmph, seems you're good with words huuh? But, just so ya know! I ain't the best admiral in the union, but on the entire continent!"

He's got some pride it seems.

"Also, ain't no place for women on board! Let 'em ride on the temple knight ship."

Lady Karina and Mia who are together with me look displeased, but I reply to him with a smile before they could snap back.

"Very well. They will be riding on my personal ship."

"Mwu."

"Mia and Lady Karina, I'm entrusting you two to patrol the sky on the airship."

"Nn."

I told the guy that Mia and Lady Karina would follow along on an airship, and then I follow after the captain who went on the ramp with perked-up shoulders and boarded the iron flagship.

"Ya whippersnappers! Pull the anchor!"

"Pull the anchor."

He roared at the crew like a pirate, rather than an admiral.

In modern times, apparently there's many cases where an admiral differs from a captain, but it seems admiral and captain hold the same position at Garleon Union.

"Raise the sail!"

"Raise the sailll"

An officer transmit the captain's order to the crew.

"Magicians, winds."

"But we have the magic furnace--"

"Quit yer' yappin'! Magic core fuel ain't gonna pay itself! Save the magic furnace till the battlefield."

Wind and water magicians had a sour look on their faces when they heard the

captain, but they obeyed him regardless and used their magic.

From what I gathered with Attentive Ears skill, these magicians are using a magic to gather wind and another to reduce friction on the hull.

The fleet depart at a speed that surpasses an ordinary ship.

That said, it's still way slower compared to an airship.

I should go do something to kill time until we meet the pirate group at their rally point....

I'm feeling the sea breeze on my body while thinking about that.

16-29. Garleon Union (5)

Satou here. I like playing naval battle simulation games and submarine games where it's mainly about searching your enemy. Racking your brain trying to root out the enemy before they could find you is fun, don't you think so.



『Satou, we're done peer reviewing the magic you gave earlier.』

『Nn, worked hard.』

『Thank you. Did you find any problem?』

『Perfect.』

『Since the mana control code has been completely left out, even an expert magician would have a hard time controlling the magic, but I don't think there is any problem in the execution itself.』

Oh good.

I had given it a try in the middle of the night myself, but a cross check is important as an insurance before a flaw could manifest itself.

『But really, when did you find the time to develop that kind of magic?』

『Well, I had nothing else to do during the cruise.』

And so I tried making <<Create Frigate Golem>> magic to kill times. It was relatively simple since I took the basic code from the existing ones.

This magic creates steel golem ships complete with a set of living statues as

their dummy sailors.

The hardest part was making these living statues looking like humans.

Additionally, each golem ship only has 10 mana cannons on it, so it's weak for a golem at level 50.

Of course it also can't fly in the sky like an airship.

Each cast will create 12 ships, so this magic should prove useful in this pirate subjugation if I cast it a lot.

I could have increased their firepower if I equipped them with high-powered mana cannons, but that would result in quick depletion of the mana supply, so I didn't put them this time.

I'll modify it the next chance I get.



"--Admiral! The support fleet is lagging behind."

I heard a crew reporting to the admiral.

"Tch, damn those money grabbers, they must be skimping on the magic cores."

The admiral clicked his tongue to hear the report.

Seems he overlooks the fact that he abused wind magicians to do the work without magic cores himself.

This fleet has 9 garleok army ships, 12 escort ships, and 4 reinforcement ships sent from other cities of Garleon Union that were on the port, 25 ships in total.

In addition, 7 of the guard ships have pirates on board, and there are even pirates slipped in half of the union reinforcement ships.

They will probably start a revolt once the melee begins, I should watch and stop them at the right time.

『Satou.』

Mia's voice reached me through space magic [Tactical Talk].

『Pirates, sunset direction.』

『Thank you, Mia.』

Looks like the airship patrolling in the sky has caught a sight of the pirates.

Almost at the same time, a flashlight installed under the airship for communication also flashed, informing me the same thing.

It's a secret that the data from the light signals is more abundant than Mia's words.

『Intercept?』

『No, let's observe them, I'd like to know the capability of this subjugation force.』

From what the Map shows me, there's no ship getting attacked by pirates, so it should be fine.

"Admiral! Warship sighted at two o'clock! They don't have a national flag on them."

About half a hour later, a birdkin soldier who was patrolling the area gave such report.

"Alright! Look for an ambush, wind magicians."

The wind magicians who were giving speed to the ship stopped their magic and began to chant search magic.

"Engine unit! Raise the magic furnace output."

"Aye aye sir."

Vibrations and mana wave coming from below got stronger.

"Admiral, should we get the mana cannons ready?"

"Umu... Scouts! How many ships there are!"

"I see one ship!"

"Then let's sink that one and raise our fleet morale. Prepare the mana cannon."

"Aye aye sir."

The gunport is opened, and the waterproof cloth covering the mana cannons downstairs are removed.

"Admiral! One warship at two o'clock, distance 2200."

The wind magicians give their report after the mana cannons had finished preparing.

Looks like Garleon Union's unit of length is similar to yard.

The distance is about 2 kilometers.

"Alright, no ambush it is."

The admiral grinned.

『Summon?』

『--No, there's no need for the artificial spirits.』

Mia asked if she should support us with artificial spirits, but that would be a total overkill.

『Mwu』

『Don't worry, you'll have your chance later, hold on a bit okay.』

『I would like to take part too.』

『Yes, of course. Sistina-sama too, please have patient until your turn. Until then, could you please help patrolling the area with the gargoyle unit?』

『Yes, leave it to me.』

The girls get their turn for real when the pirates have amassed their main force.

However, Lady Karina and Princess Sistina might have their turn early.

Big red spots shown on the Map tell me just that.

I check out several red spots cruising under the pirate fleet.

Their identity are that of Torpedo Squids and a Squid Kraken.

There are 20 of the former averaging at level 12, and the latter consists of only one at level 45.

No wait, there's around 30 Sea Orcs whose levels are at single digit following them too.

Every one of the monsters have this unusual state of [Subordination].

It's probably a type of Tame.

These monsters are advancing under water, so wind magic search cannot find them.

At a glance, the captain who didn't search underwater with water magic might seem incompetent, but I can understand why he's hesitant to largely deplete the fleet mana to do that.

Even though there are pirates accompanied by seaborne demi-human, their war force cannot be compared to one pirate warship.

In addition, about 10-20 kilometer behind that pirate ship, the pirate main force is gradually amassing, it seems like the wind magic earlier couldn't pick them up.

They also have several Squid Krakens coming with them, so Mia and Princess Sistina will have plenty of chance.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Warship in sight!"

The pirate ship came into sight on the horizon before long.

"Black pirate ship?"

"Oy! Look at that pirate's flag!"

"Skull coiled by sea snakes--It's the Skeleton Archduke's ship!"

According to the Map, Skeleton Archduke isn't on that ship.

They probably let their subordinates hoist the flag to cause confusion and to act as a warning.

"That flag, weird~?"

"Tama think so nodesu?"

Tama and Pochi who came out of the shadow on my feet bent their body forward on the handrail.

It's already time for lunch break, I guess?

Fortunately, the people around us are busy preparing for the battle, they haven't noticed the two.

"You two, women aren't allowed to be on this ship, so go to the ship where Karina-sama and the others are and watch from there, okay."

The two who were looking up at me looked dejected.

"Nyu~?"

"Too bad nodesu."

Nevertheless, the two obediently went into the shadow and got on board the airship in the sky.

『Send the dummy signal.』

『Yes siir』

I asked the brownie on the airship to send out a dummy light signal.

This ship's navigator who noticed that signal looks at me in askance.

"Admiral, there's a high chance the enemy is being accompanied by monsters."

"Accompanied? We knew about the tamed Sea Orcs already."

"No, not that--"

"Sir Pendragon! I'm busy with the battle. Act like an observer would and observe our fight quietly!"

I wanted to warn him that the monsters were Torpedo Squids and a Squid Kraken, but he turned a deaf ear.

The fleet will suffer serious damage if this keeps up, I should drop down Karina Bomb the moment Squid Kraken shows itself to prevent that.

As for the Torpedo Squids, well, considering we have 25 warships, they should manage somehow.

『Karina-sama, it's about time for you to show up--』

I talked to Lady Karina in the sky above to ease her boredom.



"Those bunch are heading straight to us. Are they getting desperate?"

"Hmph, this is all those worthless pirates amount to. Fire the mana cannons all at once when they get within range."

The fleet begins to encircle the pirate ship and turns their flanks toward it.

"The pirates aren't attacking, are they?"

I tried asking the navigator.

"They're on the downwind, so they're still outside the arrow range."

Is that really true?

We're only about 100 meter apart from each other though.

"Mana cannons, get ready to fire--fireeeeeeeeeee!"

The mana cannons spewed flame with the admiral's command, the consort ships next to the flagship shot out their mana cannons one after another.

"Oh?"

A wall of water appeared in front of the pirate ship's black hull, warding off the mana cannon flame balls one after another.

That's probably the magic of the Squid Kraken under the sea.

"I-impossible! Fire the next volley!"

Seeing that, the admiral issued an order in flurry.

"We haven't finished reloading the mana cannons yet."

The pirates will charge in if this keeps up.

There's an extra large horn-shaped battering ram on the pirate ship's hull.

Looks like they were planning to charge using the horn and get on board this ship from the start.

I took out a magic bow and several steel arrows from my magic bag.

"Admiral! The enemy ship is on a collision route."

"Eey, to the starboard!"

The flagship tried to take a sudden turn to evade the collision, but our speed had fallen because of the forced maneuver.

And that's when the Torpedo Squids are coming.

"Admiral! Monsters underwater!"

"Just ignore those Sea Orcs!"

"It's not them, it's Torpedo Squids!"

"W-what'd you say--"

Looks like the flagship crew finally noticed the Torpedo Squids.

These monsters are only level 20, but their length is about half the flagship.

"I'll lend you a hand."

I announced that, and aimed my arrows at the Torpedo Squids swimming underwater.

"Mere arrows can't possibly work underwater--"

I shot out three arrows while judging the timing and killed seven Torpedo Squids.

I'd feel bad if I killed them all and take all the credits, so I left three of them half-dead.

"--They hit and even killed them?"

The admiral who was going to sneer at me was surprised with his eyes wide open.

No no, do your admiral job than doing that reaction.

His subordinates were taking actions all the while he was getting surprised, water magicians were shooting the Torpedo Squids with water lances, and the wind magicians were chanting evasion magic.

The ship crew were earnestly controlling of the sail using the rope to re-accelerate the ship.

"It's coming out."

I point at the rising water surface in front of us.

The sea was split and ten tentacles surfaced at first.

The tip of those tentacles are adorned with harpoon-like thorned claws, each of the suction pads is larger than a person.

"I-it's Kraken!"

"R-run away! This ship's gonna sink!"

The crew fell into panic when they saw it.

Of course that applies not only to the flagship but the entire consort ships.

The Squid Kraken hasn't even shown its main body, yet it's already turned into a pandemonium here.

And it seems like the admiral and the ship captains that should have been the ones who calm them down are also barely able to keep their composure.

『Karina-sama, go on and do it.』

『I've been waiting for this!』

Lady Karina sounded so happy in her voice transmitted with space magic.

『Strong wind is blowing to the west so--』

『Kungfuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu, kiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiick, desuwaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!』

Lady Karina fell down while shouting the technique name out loud before I could warn her to be careful of the wind.

No no, you shouldn't shout out that technique name here.

I don't think there's anyone calm enough to hear it though.

Lady Karina who was making a fall as fast as a meteorite, while kicking the air to correct her course, pierced through the Squid Kraken.

『Vorpal Piercing, nanodesu!』

『Vanquish Tornado~?』

Following after Lady Karina, Pochi and Tama fell down with new techniques.

The Squid Kraken's HP was already zero by then, I'll keep my mouth shut regarding that.

"All hands! Capture the pirate ship!"

I put strength on my stomach and shouted out toward the people who were panicking at the sudden falling meteorites.

The mana cannons that had finished reloading shot down the mast of the pirate ship that had lost the Squid Kraken protection, and opened a huge hole on the pirate ship's hull.

The pirates got on board the second warship that barely evaded the battering ram.

We're boarding the pirate ship ourselves from the opposite side.

"There's a strong one."

"Must be one of the Skeleton Archduke's confidants, Skeleton Knight Zamud."

Although he's called Skeleton Knight, the guy is not a demon or a monster, but a former knight of Parion Holy State wearing a skeleton-like mask.

He's level 38, and apparently specializes in close quarter combat.

Lots of sailors would die if we left him alone, I should give them a help a bit.

"Heave-ho, there."

I sent Zamud's sword flying with my magic bow, and shot his dominant arm.

And while I'm at it, for the pirate's ship captain--

"Punch, desuwa!"

--Lady Karina who had seaweeds decorating her head landed her fist.

The pirate captain got sent rebounding on the deck with arched back.

"Here comes Pochi, nanodesu!"

"Tama comes too~?"

Pochi and Tama who boarded the deck took the shupin pose.

"Pochi, Tama, it's all thanks to you that I was able to take out the villain!"

Looks like the two threw Lady Karina on the deck earlier.

"Don't worry be happy~?"

"It's too early to let your guard down nodesuyo!"

Pochi kicked and sent a pirate, who was going to attack Lady Karina from behind, flying.

The pirates who charged in all at once got a beat down by Tama and Lady Karina.

You might be deceived by their cute looks, but these three are more brutal than the gigantic kraken earlier.

『Caught them.』

Mia's water spirits seem to have captured pirates who were trying to flee.

『Satou, the patrolling gargoyles reported that more than 20 pirate ships have gathered.』

『Thank you very much, Sistina-sama.』

Now then, there is still some time before the enemy main force finished gathering, but there's something I need to do before that.

"Sir Pendragon, I give you my thanks for your assistance, but yer' overstepping your bounds!"

The admiral pressed me on while scattering his saliva around.

This one is more depressing to deal with than the pirates.

62 enemy ships remaining.

They've split into three groups of around 20 ships, each lurking on reefs and islands dominated with complex tides, waiting for our fleet in ambush.

Once this fleet fell for the most conspicuous decoy, they would undoubtedly encircle us.

I have a feeling that that will definitely happen if we leave the command to this admiral.

I'd rather be on the side doing the encirclement than be on the receiving end, thank you.

16-30. Garleon Union (6)

Satou here. It feels like there's only a few chances for intelligences and subversive actions to carry much weight in historical simulation games. I guess it's really because flowers in the battlefield have to be the clashes of troops, after all?



"Lots more people got injured than I expected."

The second warship that suffered an attack from the pirate ship had 4 dead and 17 wounded.

The entire fleet likely would have faced a total destruction had they received the full brunt of the accompanying tamed monsters' attacks we dealt with.

"So, this guy's Zamud..."

The pirate captain and skeleton knight Zamud bound in rope were dragged before the admiral.

The majority of the dead and the wounded were by the hands of Zamud,

hence most of hateful glances from the sailors were concentrated on him.

"Die."

"--Wha"

I blocked the admiral's sword, who suddenly tried to cut down Zamud, with the fairy sword still in its sheath.

I don't mind if the guy's going to get executed, but please don't suddenly hold a violent show right in front of me.

"What are you planning?"

"My subordinates were the ones who captured them. Please continue with the execution after we brought them back to Garleok City and received the bounty."

"Gununu--"

Thanks to the slight aid of Coercion skill that I used to stop the violent show, I succeeded shutting down the admiral's protest.

"Besides, shouldn't you start treating the wounded and stay on guard of the enemy main force rather than dealing with something like execution."

"Treatment is already underway--wait, enemy main force?"

"Yes, they only had one ship attacking us was likely to deal serious damage to our fleet with the tamed monsters' surprise attack. Therefore, normally you'd think that the main force will follow after to assault Garleok City, wouldn't you?"

"O-of course! You don't need to tell me such an obvious thing!"

After saying that, the admiral ordered the sailors and wind magicians to search around.

Looks like they're going to use Mana Furnace this time.



"Then, I'll be going to prepare to tow the pirates."

I've gathered all the captured pirates including pirate captain and the skeleton knight on the captured pirate ship to be towed back to Garleok City with our airship.

Of course, I'll be splitting the bounty to the admiral and the pirate subjugation fleet.

I plan to have them sleep along the way with Mia's spirit magic to prevent them from revolting.

That magic cannot be undone without the user's approval or without using force magic's Magic Break, quite convenient for transporting criminals.

"Hmph, going out of your way for mere pirates..."

The admiral seems dissatisfied, but he's already agreed to it, thus I thoroughly ignore him.

--Hm?

"Admiral, it seems they're still treating the wounded on the second ship?"

"That's good enough. Go fix 'em yourself if yer' so curious."

The admiral who had an irritated look on his face waved his hand like he's shoos away a dog.

Well, since I've gotten the permission, I'll put on the Flight Shoes and get to the next ship.

"Noble-sama, do you have any business on this ship?"

The second warship's captain saw me and threw a question.

"I happened to see that you were done with the treatment for the wounded, I came here to ascertain the situation."

"Yeah--we've stopped the bleeding. The folks that bled too much aren't usable in battle, but they should be able to move by the time we're back on port, so long they eat."

No, not that.

The captain had a pained look when he saw my line of sight.

"Ship magicians and doctors cannot heal limb loss. Although, even if we bring them back to Garleok City right away, these guys don't have the money to get treatment from high ranking Garleon Temple Priests."

...I see.

You need expensive high magic potion or elixirs to heal limb loss.

Restoring lost limbs and internal organs with advanced holy magic or spirit magic is possible, but common advanced magic can only restore endpoint parts like fingers and such.

Though it's possible to heal it with even mid level magic or potion as long as it hasn't been long since the limb has been cut and the cut limb remains.

"Then, do you mind if I take care of it?"

"We'd be very glad to... But, will your excellency himself do it?"

"No, one of my companions is an expert of water magic, you see."

I looked up at the flying airship in the sky as I said that.

"We can't offer much as a reward, but if you could, would you please heal them?"

"Of course, that is if you permit those girls to board this ship."

The captain hesitated only for an instant, and immediately gave his

permission to allow women on board.

I contacted Mia with space magic and called the airship to float besides the second warship.

"Wound."

"Everybody, please wash the stump and attach the cut limb on it."

I translate Mia-sensei's word and indirectly help with the treatment.

"...■■■■ Life Water (Recovery Life)"

Mia-sensei's magic restores the sailors' limbs.

For two sailors whose stumps had turned to shreds, I stretched out [Magic Hand] and applied high potion on the wounds.

"Ooo, I can move my fingers!"

"My leg can move too!"

"My arm too!"

"My knee doesn't hurt anymore!"

"Thank ye thank ye, magician-dono."

"Thank you, magician-sama!"

Once the magic showed its effect, the sailors cheered out loud and grandly thanked Mia.

"Satou."

Mia who was frightened by the men's vigor hid behind me.

"Gahahaha, ya fools went and scared her with yer' faces."

The sailors heartily laughed when they saw that.

Mia seemed miffed, but she showed her me usual smile when I poked on her puffed out cheeks.

Now that we're done with the treatment on this ship, let's ask Mia and the others to pretend transporting the pirate ship with our airship.

We wouldn't make it in time for the clash with the enemy main force if we were to bring them back to Garleok City, so I'm just going to let the pirate ship float on a sea of a sub-dimension I create.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Admiral! We caught wind of what appeared to be ship silhouettes, at two o'clock, distance 9000. Their number is around 8 to 10."

Three wind magicians who worked together to search the area gave their findings.

From what I gathered on the map, there should be three groups with 20 ships each--but looking again, two of the 20 ship fleets are moving to encircle us from afar, and in the fleet that the wind magicians found, every two ships are connected by rope. It's probably to disguise them as one ship.

"9000 at two o'clock, that's around Seaweed Archipelago huh... That's troublesome."

The admiral muttered loathfully as he looked at the sea chart.

According to my Map info, Seaweed Archipelago is a perilous place where lots of reef and seaweed type monsters lurk around.

Add to the fact that there's a lot of small islands that can act as the pirate hiding spots.

In fact, pirate-looking men along with small ships are lurking on several of those islands.

"Wait a bit and use the search magic once again. Find out their direction and speed. Comm officer, tell every ship to let half of the ship take a rest and have a light meal."

After giving orders, the admiral gathered each captains of the warships.

He's probably going to brief them his plan.

"Alright, let's split the fleet into three groups."

The admiral said that after glaring at the sea chart.

"Admiral, if I may--"

"I ain't gonna hear you suggesting us to go with full fleet."

The admiral who perceived my advice candidly refused it and went to speak out his plan.

"It'd be bad if the pirates went into hiding in the Seaweed Archipelago once they sensed their disadvantage. We'll split our escort ships into two fleets. One of the escort fleet will go north from the southern strait of the Seaweed Archipelago. The second escort fleet will go south from the north. We're gonna make a beeline for the pirates and attack them."

The flagship fleet will have 13 ships, and each of the two support fleets will have 6. The flagship fleet may have twice the number of ships, but it's in the most danger because it's the one fighting on the front line.

Maybe that's why none of the escort ship captains tried to refute him.

Were the enemy number exactly like what the wind magicians found, the admiral's plan wouldn't be half-bad.

However--.

"Admiral, that plan is too dangerous if they have monsters like the Kraken earlier with them. Besides, there is no guarantee that the enemy fleet really only has 10 ships."

"Hmph, I know that much."

"Then--"

"I ain't changing the plan. We'll just adapt to the situations on the spot if the enemy fleet has Kraken with them."

Adapt to the situations... Without a concrete plan, isn't that practically just throwing mud at the wall, hoping some stick?

"That might suffice if their forces consist of only pirates, but if the two support fleets were to encounter a Kraken--"

"There is only one Kraken; the one earlier."

The admiral declared so to interrupt me.

"Do you have a ground for your assertion?"

"Of course."

In fact, there are two Krakens next to the fake Skeleton Archduke's ship, with 50 Torpedo Squids not too far.

"If those guys have the mean to control multiple Krakens, they would have attacked Garleok City and Garleon Union's southern port a long time ago."

No duh, this is exactly that time.

Right when I was going to say that, one of the sailors carrying a ladle climbed the stairs and shouted.

"Admiral! Bad news!"

"What's happening!"

The admirals shouted at the sailor.

"Our barrels of food have rotted! In addition, all of the barrels filled with

drinking water have holes on them!"

This must be the work of spies the pirates sent.

I had noticed them making their moves in the fight earlier, but I purposely overlooked them in order to gain a little credit.

"It appears to have been Rot Poison."

I've gone to look at the barrels with the admiral.

Wine barrels are fortunately safe, but we can't exactly get wasted before a fight, even if it can provide a minimum amount of calorie.

It's possible to create drinking water from sea water, so the fleet won't die out as long as we have water magicians around, however if it comes to that, the water magicians' mana will be used to preserve our lifeline instead for battle.

"Get the other ships to share their portion--wait, what about the other ships?"

Looks like the admiral finally realized the possibility.

"W-we'll check on them at once!"

One of the officers ran to the deck.

And the result is--

"Food and water on 19 of the 25 ships was completely razed. The remaining six only have around 20% huh... Damn those pirates."

The admiral crushed his hat in his hands and threw it on the deck.

Since we apparently had three weeks worth of food and water, by simple calculations, the remaining share is only enough to provide the entire fleet for a day.

We're three days away from Garleok City here, so we're sure to starve even if we go back now.

"If only we knew, we'd have taken those monsters' meat..."

The ship chef muttered as he wistfully looked at the sea.

We only took the magic cores from the Kraken and the Torpedo Squids, he must be regretting that.

Of course, I secretly stretched out my [Magic Hand] and retrieved them into my Storage.

"Admiral, maybe we should go back to Garleok City for--"

"Fools! Victory is right before our eyes!"

The admiral interrupted the officer.

Looks like he's hellbent on subjugating the pirates no matter what.

"It seems like you're in trouble."

"What are you trying to say?"

Since I'm not into watching the admiral looking troubled, I offer to provide their food.

"Food, you say? We're talking 'bout shares for 25 ships here ya know? No matter how bottomless your magic bag is, there is no way it could hold food for

1200 people."

"Not really, no."

I mean, I've got enough food to feed a city with one million people for several years in my Storage.

"For now, I'll provide drinking water and food, and also dehydrated vegetables for soup and dried fruits for dessert."

I pick out a storage sack with huge opening from the Storage via the storage bag, and then I take out huge barrels filled with water and food from it one after another.

"OOOOOO"

"Incredible..."

"You're kiddin' me."

The sailors were surprised to see it.

It's quite the amount after all.

"The guy went and lifted those huge barrels filled with water."

"And he doesn't look tired at all."

Looks like they were surprised at me handling heavy barrels indiscreetly.

"As expected of Demon Lord Slayer..."

"Knew it, that rumor was true."

"I thought his stupidly strong subordinates yesterday did it fer' him."

"Can't be helped, I mean the guy looks like a meek noble by appearance."

Attentive Ears skill picked up the sailors gossiping on the deck.

"This much should be enough for this ship. Well then, I'll be distributing food to other ships too."

"Y-you have my thanks, Earl Pendragon."

As I heard the admiral mixed-feeling-sounding voice on my back, I went around the other ships with Flight Shoes.

It's way too much trouble to go around them with the ferryboat.

"Well, I'm doing this not just out of kindness though--"

I secretly hid micro golems for suppressing revolt in each ship as I visited them.

I can easily deal with a revolt even without them, but with these golems, suppressing the revolt can be done with one command, make things easier for me.



"Captain! Report from wind magician! The pirates are sailing slowly along the islands. In my humble opinion, they're most likely gathering."

An officer reported in place of the exhausted looking wind magicians.

"They must be on their way back from attacking a merchant ship. Now's our chance, the split fleets should have enough time to encircle them."

It seems like he's really not going to change the encirclement plan.

"Have the escort fleet go on the planned sea routes."

The admiral declared thus, and then the escort fleet split into two groups and departed toward the north and south of the Seaweed Archipelago.

From what I see on my Map, they don't seem like they're going to encounter the pirate fleets that are going to encircle this flagship fleet, so I simply watch over them departing without saying anything.

"Have the flagship fleet stay on this route for a while."

Then the admiral gives another order for us to have a meal break.

Looks like we're going to have a proper meal instead of just biting on preserved biscuits.

"--Earl-sama, I'm sorry to trouble you like this."

"Don't worry about it."

I helped carrying two barrels from the ship's hold and cooked vegetable soup in the kitchen.

They'd get suspicious if the food was too fresh, so only the flagship fleet got meat other than jerky.

"Smells so nice--"

"I can't wait."

The finished dishes were brought to the admiral's table one by one since those voices could be heard.

Apparently, hierarchy is important in a warship, and food has to be brought to admiral, officers and then sailors in order.

The meal wouldn't start if I wasn't present with the admiral, so I left the rest to the head chef and went out of the kitchen.

"WOOOOOOOOOO"

The admiral who started his meal shouted out loud.

The officers around us stopped their hands thinking that it was poison, but when they saw the admiral furiously continuing his meal, they carried their spoon into their mouth.

"S-so good!"

"T-this stuff's incredible."

The officers present here praised the food.

I'm glad that they found it palatable at least.

I also quickly take my meal.

I'd feel sorry for the sailors who are stuck to watch the surroundings if I took it easy.



"Enemy ships in sight."

"What is this? There's twice the reported number of them!"

The admiral glared at the wind magicians.

"P-perhaps, the enemy got a reinforcement while they were gathering..."

The wind magician said so.

"Enough with your excuse. Just quickly search again! Water magicians, search underwater too! Even without Kraken, Torpedo Squids could mean trouble!"

The enemy fleet started their march here at the same time the magicians began their chanting.

The one in the center is a jet black pirate ship where the fake Skeleton Archduke is.

"There's huge creatures underwater!"

"Is it Kraken?"

"If that's the case, there's at least two of it, there's also presences of countless big monsters in the sea."

The admiral has a cramp to hear the water magician's report.

Looks like Sonar-type water magic can't find the precise number and types.

"N-no way."

The admiral shouted out loud while looking like he was going to scream.

"Change course! We're gonna escape this sea at full speed! Wind magicians! Stop with the search and use wind magic to increase the ship's speed!"

A wind magician gives his report as the admiral shouted.

"We've discovered more enemy fleets! There's at least two more fleets as large as the fleet in front of us! They're encircling us!"

"N-no way! No way, no way, no way!"

No one is attempting to stop the admiral who repeated his speech like a broken record.

Everyone who's on board the ship must be feeling the same.

"--Is it about time for my turn?"

I muttered in voice so low no one could hear as I stared at the admiral who looked like he'd be frothing from his mouth anytime now.

Looks like the real meat of the trial has finally begun.

※ Next update is planned for 1/14

The anime broadcast will be aired on 1/11!

I had been given the chance to watch the first episode myself, and it exceeded my expectations, by all means please have a look if you could.

16-31. Garleon Union (7)

Satou here. I think that, just because you can predict everything, doesn't mean you can perfectly foresee everything that will happen in the future. If you can do that, you should also be able to always win a shougi match, right.



"Arrh! Secretary, c'mere!"

Surprisingly enough, the first person who came to their sense among the ship crew was the admiral who was repeating "No way!" like a broken record.

He called the secretary to describe what we know about enemy fleet, and tell him to convey the info to the allied ships, afterward he turns toward the people who are looking at him.

"This main fleet will break through the fleet in front of us, thereafter this fleet is to disband and each ship must return to Garleok City on their own."

Apparently, he's abandoned the idea of winning this and prioritized to deliver the information back, while prepared to have sacrifices along the way.

""A-admiral?!""

Considering the difference in forces, I think the admiral's decision is appropriate, but the ship crew are surprised.

"Many ships would be sunk before we could break through if we did that."

"We couldn't possibly defend Garleok City if only a few ships remained!"

"That's right! Have you forgotten what the water magician said! There are Kraken class monsters near the front fleet!"

Many senior officers tried to change the admiral's mind.

But wouldn't this fleet be annihilated if we fought directly?

"Course I know that much!"

The admiral shouted back louder than the crew.

His [Amplification] skill isn't just for show, it seems.

"We might have a chance to get out of this alive if we focus on escaping and manage to join the escort fleets!"

Is that really the case?

Krakens can swim surprisingly fast despite their bulky looks.

"However, if we don't bring back the information we have, Garleok City would be overrun by pirates without any way to fight back!"

The admiral looks dignified somehow.

"And most importantly! What'd happen to my property I worked so damn hard to amass if Garleok City got destroyed! Who d'ya think would pay for my pension, huh!"

Ah, yup.

It's the admiral I know.

I don't think that's all there is to it, but since I agree with his plan here, I'll be watching with my mouth shut.

"Earl Pendragon!"

Huh? He's turning the conversation to me.

"I'll leave the Krakens to you! Show us the power of yer' demon lord slayer thingy!"

What's with the condescending attitudes anyway.

"Unfortunately, the airship where my companions are has not returned yet--"

The admiral and the crews' faces went deadly pale.

"What are--"

"--Therefore, I will make sure that the krakens and other monsters don't get near us instead."

If I thoughtlessly annihilated these monsters, it would be a display of

[Individual Might] instead of [Group Valor].

"Admiral, we've copied the documents!"

"Very well. Summoner magicians! Deliver all the letters that have been sealed with wax to every ship captains!"

The admiral stamped sealing waxes on the documents he got from the secretary, put them inside watertight tubes and handed them over to the summoner magicians.

It seems these documents will be delivered to every ships by carrier pigeons summoned by the summoner magicians.

It's probably a step taken to prevent other ship captains from thinking that we're deserting under enemy fire when they find out about it.

The method might be manual, but just being able to take the proper actions in an emergency situation like this is a proof of this admiral's capability.

Still doesn't quite excuse his haughtiness, or rather, condescending attitudes though.



"Shield ships, go full speed ahead! All other ships besides the gunboats and the shield ships are to focus all their efforts into gaining speed! Don't skimp on the magic cores! Doesn't matter even if the magic furnaces broke down! Get to full throttle by any mean possible!"

The admiral gave his orders in rapid successions.

But, did we even have shield ships?

Looking around as I thought that, I saw ships with force magicians on board creating magic that looked similar to Flexible Shield in front of their boarded ships.

In addition, men who look like sailors are lining up on the deck with great shield made from ultramarine-colored turtle shells on their hands.

"This area has a lot of reefs around! Order the shield ship water magicians to search underwater! Pick the route that'll send us straight to the enemy flagship!"

Those were some good instructions.

Looks like he didn't obtain the admiral position through connections and lineage.

Well, he has [Command], [Ship Steering] and [Sea Route] skills with him, so I never doubted his competency.

Though considering he also has [Bribe], [Gestures], and [Coercion] skills, he's probably also not your honest-to-goodness admiral either.

"Those who've got nothing to do, go and get the large ballista and crossbows ready!"

The admiral's order wasn't only effective on the flagship, the other escort ships who saw the signal flags also began to charge long-range weapons that hadn't been loaded with mana yet.

"--Now then."

I'm not sure if I should call the girls back here or not.

The real war starts here on out no matter how you look at it.

If possible, I'd prefer not to let the girls watch people getting killed.

Even the fight earlier had a lot of casualties.

『Sistina-sama, there's a chance of the pirates going to do something behind the scene at Garleok City. Could you make the airship go to Garleok City?』

I concocted that reason with the help of Deception skill.

It pains me to have to lie to them, but this is a necessary step to prevent the girls seeing people killing each others.

『Oh my? Do you not need reinforcements over there?』

『Yes, it looks like the admiral is going to shake off the pirates and head back to Garleok City himself.』

『...Then we will go back to Garleok City ahead of time.』

Princess Sistina consented after contemplating a bit.

『Satou.』

『What's the matter, Mia?』

『You okay?』

Looks like Mia saw through my lies.

Perhaps, Princess Sistina did too.

『Of course, I am.』

『I see.』

I said so to the anxious Mia.

『And just when am I going to take the stage?』

『It will be at a place where Garleok City people could witness you, surely.』

『Then I'll wait.』

Lady Karina seems to have taken my words at face value.

Her Pochi-like honesty is cute like always.

I undo [Tactical Talk] and focus on the opening of hostilities before me.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"--It's Water Wall! Stop the rudder!"

"No, don't stop!"

I negated the admiral's instruction and shot a magic bow's arrow at the water wall the Kraken created.

"The water wall broke down?"

"Was that a magic arrow?"

I unleashed [Break Magic] at the same time the arrow hit to break the magic stealthily.

I shot out an arrow with a magic bow was to make them think the arrow carried magic break property.

There is a point in me disguising my power after the free-fall attack of Lady Karina and the girls.

If they rely too much on my power, I won't be able to accomplish God Garleon's order of [Command an army, display your group valor].

Well, there's still the problem of acquiring the right to command, but this one is not that difficult to solve.

I could simply make the admiral sleep with anesthetic needle, and then act as his dummy with Ventriloquism.

"Incoming enemy bombardment!"

Lots of pirate ships seem to have been equipped with mana cannons themselves, several ships fired their load on the shield ships, hitting the barrier and scattering sparks around.

Quite a sight to behold.

This would feel like watching a battle PV if that was all, but--

"I dun' wanna die, I dun' wanna die, I dun' wanna die."

I couldn't manage to since the male secretary is muttering that on loop nearby.

--Aa"

A mana cannonball that was flicked off of the barrier hit an escort ship's deck.

The sailors that were on the deck got instantly charred, as a hole opened on the deck.

Several sailors got thrown out in the sea along with wreckage.

"Make it stop, make it stop, make it stop."

I ignore the officer who came up with a new version of the loop, and lay down dummy corpses over the [Illusion] charred corpses from my storage through [Magic Hand].

I'd feel bad if deserted these sailors as it happened right in front of my eyes, so I had transported them to the sub-dimension before they got charred.

While I was doing that, one of the shield ship's barrier hit its limit and broke down, sinking the ship.

I extend out [Magic Hands] and save as many sailors as I possibly can.

This is more hectic than expected.

Some pirate ships have also been sunk by the attack of our side's gunboats, but I don't have enough hands to save those ones.

It's not exactly impossible if I try, but I have no obligation to go out of my way, saving those who survive later should be good enough.

--What?

Several dots on a shield ship that had led the way and got past the enemy ships disappeared even though its barrier hasn't been breached.

The enemy arrows shouldn't be able to reach the ship with the protection of the wind magicians on board.

"Admiral, it appears that a powerful one has gotten on board our vanguard ship. I'll be heading out for a bit."

I flew off with Flight Shoes after saying that.

The enemy ships shot out their arrows at me as I flew past them, but there's not even a scratch on me as I collected those arrows into my storage while randomly evading.

Well, I don't think these arrows will scratch me even if one hits, but who in their right mind would want to take an arrow to them.

"--Whoops."

I evaded a sword that flew in the air at an eerily high speed.

Looking at the direction where it comes from, there's a female pirate with a bizarrely heavy make-up looking up at me from the deck of the vanguard shield ship.

I've seen her before with the space magic [Clairvoyance].

She should be the pirate that serves beside the Skeleton Archduke.

"So you've come no! O Shadow Servant!"

After the woman said that, a minotaur-like shadow with bulging muscles arose from her shadow.

According to AR reading, that seems to be the mid-level demon that's possessing her.

For some reason, the mid level demon has [Subordination] state.

Perhaps, this female pirate isn't being possessed by a demon, but she's letting a demon she rules over to possess her to increase her power?

--SZYWAAAADWOOOWN。

I parry the shadow demon's attack with magic edge-coated Fairy Sword, and fly toward the point where the female pirate and shadow demon are connected.

"I've seen through your objective nano!"

The female pirate took out short spears from Item Box and threw them one after another.

I acrobatically evade them as they tear through the sky with roaring sounds.

"Gross no!"

The female pirate gives up with the throwing, unsheathes her dual scimitar-shaped magic swords and looks up at me.

While still locking her sight on me, she ran up the shroud on the main mast to climb to the top and then kicked on the main mast, rapidly making her way to me.

Can't believe she ran up the shroud without looking at her footings.

"Die nano!"

The left scimitar comes attacking me right after I evaded the right one.

It's an orthodox way of attacking, but the speed of her slash is inhumane.

Crisis Perception skill tells me that the shadow demon is also coming from behind.

"--Well, this is nothing compared to Tama's attacks though."

I kick the incoming female pirate's scimitar to speed up, and leave behind the follow-up attacks of the shadow demon.

And then I fall on the deck and strike the Fairy Sword at her shadow there.

"GYAAAAAAAAAA"

--ZYWAADDDWOWN.

The shadow evaporated with the blow of magic edge, and I could hear the female pirate and shadow demon's screams behind me.

"Did that do it?"

I muttered so as I stared at the shadow demon that disappeared into black

mist and the fainted female pirate.

Looks like that managed to beat it.

Right when I thought that, I heard cracking sounds below my feet.

The part of the hull where the Fairy Sword struck is getting torn apart.

--This is bad.

Destroying an ally ship would be bad, thus I hold down the ship with [Magic Hand] and glue it back together with [Quick Bond] magic.

I'm sorry for treating it like a plastic model, but that's better than getting sunk right.

"Take care of the female pirate downstairs!"

I climb to the top of the main mast as I said that.

I'd like to try running up on the shroud like the female pirate did, but it'd be really uncool if I lost my footings, so I restrained myself.

--TWAAAKCOOOOWN。

--IKZWAAAAAAWN。

A squid-shaped and an octopus-shaped Kraken tore through the sea surface.

The people who were on the deck screamed when they saw that.

"I would have loved to let Lady Karina and Mia deal with these guys if I could."

I ready my magic bow, create a phantom arrow and multifold magic circles with God Garleon holy mark on them at the tip of the arrow with [Illusion] magic.

So cool. Arisa would be ecstatic if she saw this.

"By the divine protection of God Garleon, wicked sea monsters, begone!"

I put some strength in my belly and shouted out loud.

Of course, with the assistance of Amplification skill and wind magic.

I release the magic bow's string that has been pulled to its limit.

The phantom arrow was clad in red light as it flew, blowing away the octopus kraken in one hit, then the kraken floated on the sea.

Of course, the kraken wasn't blown away by the phantom arrow, but by a low tier explosion spell I shot out chantlessly.

The sea falls into disorder, and both the pirate fleet and allied fleet are tossed around like foliage with no chance to attack each other.

--I think this should be the right timing?

"O Golden Wheel! Lead the way for our ships!"

I put an illusion of [Golden Wheel], that's in my storage, in the sky using [Illusion] magic, and make the allied fleet ships to slip pass the pirate fleet with [Magic Hand] and [<<Control Ocean>>] magic.

"

--This is bad.

"

In defiance of this raging sea, a jet black pirate ship is attempting to ram the flagship with its battering horn.

Sinking that ship is simple, but evading that while remote controlling 11 ships at once won't be easy.

I could end up capsizing them all before the battering horn came if I forced myself.

"Skeleton Archduke's ship, incoming!"

I can't imagine that dainty young man to do such a reckless act like ramming with a battering horn.

While running in parallel with the ships remote control, I try to look at the situation in the enemy ship with space magic [Clairvoyance], and [Clairhears].

"Your excellency Archduke! We'd be capsized before the battering horn could reach them at this rate!"

"Do not falter! Men of the sea never turn tail and run!"

I saw a nobleman-looking young man wearing a skeleton mask trying to rouse the pirates with rough words.

"Put some spirit into it! His excellency is worried about the young miss who went ahead, y'see."

"T-that's not true!"

...Some kind of drama has begun on the ship over there somehow.

"Since they're on the verge of capsizing anyway, guess I'll capsize them."

I picked [Water Wall] on the Magic List and produced it in front of the enemy ship.

--It made a hole through the wall?

Looks like the ship has some kind of magic item that can remove water installed on board.

"Well, whatever--don't die on me."

I nock thin arrows used for hunting small birds on the magic bow, and shoot them at the enemy ship's commander, Skeleton Archduke, and the navigator holding the ship's wheel.

"GUAAAAAAAAA"

"Kuh, 'tis but a scratch!"

"My lord!"

The fake Skeleton Archduke jumped on the wheel that the navigator released.

I commend his guts, but with an arrow stuck on his shoulder, he's unable to hold the wheel and misses the battering horn.

"All hands, grab on something!"

I heard the officer saying that from the flagship.

But they couldn't avoid a collision between the two ships' hulls after all.

Several of the crew were thrown into the sea.

I hesitated for a bit, but I canceled the magic that holds up the allied fleet and transported the fallen crew into the sub-dimension I used for saving people.

However, the compensation for that isn't to be scoffed at.

Several shield ships and gunboats that lost their support were capsized, many people were thrown out to the sea.

While regretting a bit, I saved those people into the same sub-dimension where the people earlier had gone to.

Well, the admiral was among the people who got thrown into the sea at first, so it's not like I had any other choice.

This saves me the trouble, but I feel a bit sad for missing the chance to use the Anesthetic Needle and Ventriloquism combo.



"We somehow managed to break through the enemy encirclement."

"Y-yes... But the admiral, he's."

The navigator mumbled that when I got back to the flagship.

"Don't tell me, at the sea?"

"Yes..."

I waited for a bit, but no one tried to suggest us to turn back.

Looks like they understand the recklessness in trying to rescue the admiral who has fallen into sea full of pirates and monsters.

As ordered by the admiral, the remaining 10 ships have all gone ahead to Garleok City individually, what can a single ship do.

"Your Excellency, can you not use the power of 『Golden Wheel』 again?"

"I won't be able to use it for awhile as it's quite taxing on my body."

There is no such thing.

I mean, the stuff I did earlier was my own magic.

According to what I heard at Garleon Temple, the Wheel apparently can call out the [Golden Ship] but I haven't given it a try.

It's probably going to be quite showy, my own magic is easier to handle.

"Turn the ship back to Garleok City."

I suggested that the navigator who was asking for an order with his glances.

--I feel the cuff on my legs getting pulled, so I look down below.

Tama who showed her face out on the shadow moved her finger beside her face to make a gesture asking me to contact them with space magic, and then she disappeared into the shadow.

『Satou!』

Mia raised her voice when I connected with [Tactical Talk].

『Big trouble, really really big trouble! It's an emergency you know? Lots and lots of black ships are coming! They're coming to attack you know? They're ships, but they're flying in the sky! With sails and all, it's true you know?』

It's been awhile since Mia talked in long sentences.

Feels nostalgic somewhat.

For now, let's look at the airship where Mia and the girls are with [Clairvoyance].

The vision showed innumerable sailing ships cruising above the sky of Garleok City.

--Ragged?

For some reason, every ship is all ragged and full of holes.

The crew are ragged too--or rather, they're not even humans.

『--Ghost ships huh?』

It seems like the pirates we fought earlier were just decoys.

As a proof, a being called Skeleton Archduke is on board the flagship of this ghost fleet.

Now then, how shall I go about rescuing them?

16-32. Garleon Union (8)

This is from Princess Sistina's point of view

"Sistina-sama!"

The brownie who was assigned to pilot the airship came by while we were relaxing at the Solitary Island Palace.

"We'll be arriving above Garleok City shortly."

"Airships are really fast, aren't they."

I head back to the airship with Mia-sama and Karina-sama.

As we were about to leave the room, Lulu came inside carrying baked sweets that let off sweet smell in her hands.

"Are Liza and Nana currently training?"

"Nana-san is at school, Liza-san said that she was having a 『sparing』 with Heiron-san."

That's right, Nana is commuting to school along with Pochi and Tama.

Apparently, Liza is training with the Black Dragon in one of Satou's personal sub-dimensions.

No matter how many times I heard it, I just can't fathom how a mortal could fight with such a combat-specialized species like dragon--even knowing the demon lord slayer fact.

Perhaps, Liza would be able to win even against a demon lord?

"If necessary, I could go with you if you want?"

Lulu's sniping skill is extraordinary, but it's not exactly suitable against groups of pirates.

Besides, it seems like Satou doesn't want to let Lulu step foot in a battlefield where people kill each other.

So long we have Mia-sama's spirit magic, we should be able to handle it as long as no demon lord comes out, and Lady Karina is quite sufficient for the close-quarter combat.

We would have an easier time maintaining the allied front lines had Sera-sama who could all kinds of healing magic was here with us, but she's presently occupied with the ceremony preparation together with Arisa, she cannot be here.

"No, please don't worry, we will be fine."

I shook my head, then Lulu obediently consented and handed over the baked sweets for Satou to Mia-sama.



"What is that I wonder?"

I saw a black thread-like thing in one part of the cloudy Garleok City.

"Smokes desuwa! The central temple is on fire desuwa!"

Looks like Karina-sama could see with her naked eyes at a telescope distance.

"Mwu?"

"Mia-sama, what's the matter?"

She pointed her cute finger toward a direction where a new smoke line rose.

And, as if following after that, more and more smoke lines keep appearing one after another at Garleok City.

"The pirate underlings must be wreaking havoc there desuwa!"

After saying that, Karina-sama rolled up her sleeves, and said, "We've got to punish them."

This must be the works of the so-called terarist people Arisa told me.

"Put the airship into the optical camouflage mode and lower it down at the central temple."

"Yes, Sistina-sama."

"Mia-sama, could I ask you to extinguish the fires?"

"Nn, leave it."

Mia-sama agreed with eyes full of sagacity.

So reliable on top of being so cute, as expected of elves of Boruenan Forest.

The airship landed in the front yard of the Central Temple while we were conversing.

Right as I was about to get off, Karina-sama followed.

"I will be coming with you desuwa."

"No, Karina-sama should stay by Mia-sama's side as her guard."

"Unnecessary."

Mia-sama shook her head, telling me that my worry was unfounded.

"My golems will suffice as my escort--"

"Miasma."

Mia-sama interrupted me.

As a fairy of the forest, Mia-sama holds the power to see spirits unseen to us.

And spirits hate to be around places with thick miasma, thus Mia-sama can tell places with thick miasma, or so Arisa told me.

"Mia-sama, are those of monsters?"

"No, Impurity."

"Impurity--do you mean undeads?"

"Yes."

I see--Mia-sama is as amazing as always.

Although golems are strong against people and monsters, they're at a slight disadvantage against undeads.

That must be the reason why Karina-sama offered her company.

"Well then, Karina-sama, would you accompany me?"

"--Eh? Yes, of course desuwa!"

Karina-sama was bewildered for an instant, but she quickly regained herself and gave her affirmation.

We got off and then the airship flew off to the sky.

Mia-sama is going to extinguish the fires with her magic from above.



『--Karina-dono, look at that!』

The tiara that emits blue light on Karina-sama's forehead--Raka the [<<Intelligent Item>>] gave a warning.

The central temple's cloister is filled with ash-colored bodies that have been completely dried up.

"People are lying on the ground!"

『Karina-dono, hold it!』

Raka stopped Karina-sama who was going to run up to those bodies.

"But, we've got to save them quick."

"No, it appears they have been long gone."

Rain begins to gradually fall.

This must be Mia-sama's handiwork to extinguish the fires.

--『True Silver Horse』"

I called out to a pony-sized true silver horse golem from my personal magic tool, and then I rode on it to run past the cloister.

I've also let loose of True Steel Wolf golems that Satou made for me to act as a scout, going ahead.

No monster should exist that's capable of stopping the True Steel Wolves that can fight on par with Shiga Eight Swords, however I still hovered away [Drone-kun 39] to look out in the surroundings.

The sphere-shaped drone may not look strong, but even one of this is capable of downing a mere wyvern.

Together with these impregnable guardians, I rode the True Silver Horse toward the temple where the black smoke is rising.

--Karina-sama?

Karina-sama who had run past me and was running side by side with the True Steel Wolves made a sudden stop, breaking the stone pavements as a result.

Hit by the ever-increasing torrential rain, the dust forming from the broken stone pavements fell on the ground.

"What's wrong, Karina-sama?"

I called to Karina-sama while stopping True Silver Horse.

"I can sense evil presences...."

"--Evil presences?"

Karina-sama looks around at the surroundings, like she's mimicking Tama.

"Over there desuwa!"

Karina-sama shouted that as she rushed off.

Not toward the black smoke, but to the cathedral where the [Golden Wheel] resided.

I can't let the gullible Karina-sama to go off alone to a place where something unknown might be waiting, so I pursue her on the True Silver Horse.

『Sistina-dono, you can believe in Karina-dono's intuition.』

Raka, the tiara on Karina-sama's forehead spoke.

He then told me how she saw through a demon disguising as a consul that tried to ruin her father's territory, and acted on that to save the territory.

"I can feel something weird desuwa!"

『It appears to be miasma.』

Karina-sama stopped before the door to sanctuary.

The [Undeads] that Mia-sama mentioned must be here.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"--GWAAAAAAAAAA"

"O God Garleon! Grant your protection unto your believers!"

In front of Garleon Holy Mark, the temple head, several miko and high ranking priests are facing off against black clothed men.

This was right when a temple knight, who was fighting against the man in the center of the black clothed men, met his demise.

I hold back Karina-sama who was going to run off while saying, "Oh no desuwa", and ascertained the situations for now.

I ask Raka to tell the situations to Mia-sama up above on the airship.

"Fools who accumulated enough miasma to even let undeads like us, the so-called Impurity, into a sanctuary crowned in the God's name, and you dared to ask God's protection in the name of believers!"

A deep voice echoing like it was from hell itself came from the black clothes in the center.

The black clothes let down their hoods while ridiculing the temple clergies.

--Jet black skeleton?

The black clothed man in the middle wasn't a human, but an undead.

He must be the originator of the miasma that Mia-sama noticed.

"This cannot be! How could an undead be fine inside temple's Sanctuary?"

"Let me give you the answer to that--"

The black skeleton elatedly continued on in spite of the sorrowful grief of the temple head.

"--This Garleok City has always been a city where foolish merchants drown in their own greed. Thus, we simply manipulate the pirates to thicken the miasma and expand our sphere of actions."

While listening to the skeleton, I investigate the identity of these undeads using the Appraisal Spectacles Satou gave me.

"We let loose of the iceberg and the pirates to tear the navy off of Garleok City, but I'd have never imagined you'd sortie the entire fleet to face the pirates, y'know?"

Information comes flowing on my spectacles' lenses.

His race is [Death Lord].

Level 51--not much difference than ours.

"And for the temple knights who should have been protecting the temple to be gone as well... It's so unbelievably stupid, I suspected that this was all a trap until I got here."

I see, the black skeleton set up everything for the sake of infiltrating this place.

Had Satou didn't come here for God Garleon's trial, his ploy could have gone well.

"Temple head, I ask you once more--"

It felt like someone poured cold water on my spine hearing the black skeleton's voice.

It must be the power of [Fear] that high ranking undeads have.

"--Where are you hiding the 『Golden Wheel』."

Looks like the [Golden Wheel] that Satou carries is the main objective of the black skeleton.

"I-I already t-told you, it's in the hands of its r-rightful master."

The temple head spoke while sweating waterfall.

He's covering for Satou--no, he's covering for the man who takes on God Garleon's trial.

"Muuttering that nonsense again huh."

The black skeleton raised one hand, and then the black clothes that were standing by in all four directions around him readied their swords.

The arms carrying swords were of dirty yellowed bones.

It looks like the black skeleton also have undeads as his guards.

"Allow me to smoothen your mouth a little--kill all of them except the temple head."

As they swing their swords down, they get close toward the miko and the high ranking priests as fast as a warrior that's using Twinkling Movement.

There is no need for me to issue an order to the True Steel Wolves that are standing by beside me.

Because--.

"KARINA KIIIIIIIIIIICK!"

--A golden wind flew past me.

Karina-sama who rushed out at a speed rivaling even Liza mows down the four black clothes in one blow.

"Blue holy light--You're, Hero of Parion!"

The black clothed man who was giving orders shouted at Karina-sama.

Karina-sama sweep her golden hair behind, and turned toward him.

"I am not a hero desuwa."

She looks truly reliable, like a hero out of an epic tale.

But not ending with that is just like Karina-sama.

"I am--well now, what should I call myself?"

『Karina-dono, we should focus rescuing the temple personnels first thing first.』

"Oh right desuwane."

Karina-sama obediently agreed to Raka like a child.

"Are you mocking me! You damn ground crawler fake hero!"

The four black clothes who were flung back onto the walls stood up while Karina-sama was distracted.

Right about then, their ragged black clothes fell off.

Information flow on my spectacles' lenses.

Their race is [Wraith Knight]. Their levels are around 40-42. Stronger than expected.

No wonder they haven't been downed by Karina-sama's attack.

Even Karina-sama should find it tough, dealing with these Wraith Knights and a Death Lord of equal level at once.

"Death Lord--or perhaps, I should call you Skeleton Archduke?"

I stepped into the sanctuary along with the True Steel Wolves.

"Skeleton Archduke? So this guy is the ringleader of pirates, that Skeleton Archduke!"

The temple head sounded surprised.

According to the Appraisal Spectacles, the Death Lord's name is [Skeleton Archduke]

Satou has told me that the man with [Skeleton Archduke] title on the pirate fleet was a fake, and this Death Lord should be capable enough to rule over mid-class demons.

We can probably safely assume that this is the real one.

"And what would you do if you get your hands on the Golden Wheel?"

The Skeleton Archduke isn't answering my question.

He's just glaring with eyes concealed with [Fear].

"Oh, I know!"

Karina-sama struck an unusual pose while speaking in a cheerful tone.

It seems to be an arranged version of Pochi and Tama's [Shupi] pose.

"Hou? You're saying that you've seen through my ambition huh."

"Yes, of course desuwa--"

I'm getting a bad hunch from Karina-sama's confident sounding words.

"--It must be, to gather pirates all over the world under your wings and 『Become the Pirate King!』 desuwane!"

Hearing Karina-sama who said that full of confidence, the Skeleton Archduke is shaking his shoulders, making rattling sounds.

"A-are you mocking me, me the Skeleton Archduke! By dyeing the 『Golden Wheel』 with miasma, it will be corrupted into the 『Jet Black Wheel』 that can control all things, and by using that, I will rule over Lalakie sealed in the deep ocean as its rightful ruler and destroy your countries!"

The enraged Skeleton Archduke spilled all the beans.

Just as I thought, that dried up brain of his must not be capable of deep thinking.

"By Lalakie, you mean the floating island bestowed by Gods to the heaven

dwellers in the Ages of Gods?"

I've read books on myth in the Forbidden Archive.

"Indeed. You seem knowledgeable unlike the dimwit girl over there."

"You mentioned that it was sealed in the sea, but didn't Lalakie let itself get sunk in the sea in order to seal the Sea King."

Sea King--It was said to be one of the four kings of the Dog-Head, the one called Evil God.

It was told in the myth that sealing them was the most people could manage even with the Divine Treasures given by Gods.

"Hmph, that's a story of the past. The revived Lalakie was sunk deep in the ocean by the hands of the loathsome purple-haired hero. With the loss of 『Skeleton King』 and the 『Last Princess』 who can control Lalakie, only 『Jet Black Wheel』 is capable of bringing Lalakie back to its rightful place in the air."

I see--if the one sealing it was Satou, then there is no possible scenario of Lalakie getting revived even with the [Jet Black Wheel].

I let out a sigh of relief after realizing that the possibility of world crisis is no

more.

"What's the matter? Has the fear got to you?"

"No, I have just been made aware of the greatness of my loved one once again."

As expected of my hero-sama.

No, perhaps I should say 'our' here?

"Let me tell you the location of that 『Golden Wheel』 you seek."

"--Princess?"

The temple head was surprised to hear me.

"There is someone who has inherited the 『Golden Wheel』 among the rank of Allied Fleet that went off to fight the pirates."

"Do you mean to drive me away with such nonsenses? So shallow of you woman--"

What a bonehead befitting of skeleton.

Let's corner him a little to teach him a lesson.

"Karina-sama, please annihilate those foot soldiers."

"I got it!"

Karina-sama knocks off one of the Wraith Knights while letting off blue light.

But three of the knights that escaped Karina-sama's attack are coming to attack me.

"A leader magician with mere lesser golems as her guards, you must be asking to get attacked!"

The Skeleton Archduke jeered.

"--Lesser?"

Such a huge misunderstanding.

"What?!"

The True Steel Wolves tore up the Wraith Knights.

Their attacks wouldn't have worked if these skeletons turned into their ghost form that nulls physical attacks, but I managed to make use of the opening since they had underestimated my wolves as lesser golems and turned into half-ghost form to attack.

Furthermore--.

"...■■■■ <<Create Sanctuary>>"

My advanced earth magic purifies the damaged Wraith Knights.

"--You were the one who said that I was magician, weren't you?"

I took out the World Tree Wand from my magic bag, took one swing and then pointed it toward the Skeleton Archduke.

"KARINA KIIIIIIICK!"

Karina-sama's flying kick was coming toward the Skeleton Archduke, but he quickly turned into ghost form and evaded it.

She would have definitely defeated him if it weren't for that shout, but we can't do that, for the sake of Satou's trial.

"Bring your army here to challenge us if you want the 『Golden Wheel』."

"Challenge, you say? To this heaven dweller, the great Skeleton Archduke--"

The Skeleton Archduke is burning with dark red flames.

"--CHALLEEEEEEEEEENGINE!?"

The Skeleton Archduke who was talking big begins to disappear into a jet black shadow.

"I'll make you regret that word in hell. Go and struggle as hard as you can before the true might of my Ghost Fleet!"

The Skeleton Archduke sunk into the shadow while leaving those words.



The magic tool for emergency rang right after the Skeleton Archduke disappeared into shadow.

I held back the temple head who was going to complain, then we went out of the temple and were made to bear witness a sight of nearly 100 ghost ships cruising in the sky beyond the torrential rain.

"That monster sure is quick to take actions."

"Saying it like it's none of your business..."

The temple head complained in grumbles when he heard what I said.

He probably can't say it out loud because we saved them from peril.

"No need to worry desuwa!"

Karina-sama declared so to the temple head with a smile.

I nodded beside her and pointed at the eastern sky.

Light spills down like cutting through the cloudy sky.

"--Golden Ship?"

"No--"

I made a correction to the temple head.

"--It's a Fleet of Golden Ships."

The battle between the Ghost Fleet and the Golden Armada is about to begin above the sky of Garleok City.

Please do your best--my dear Satou.

16-33. Garleon Union (9)

Satou here. I'm not sure if it's because simulation games come from war board games, but I just love world war II war games even on home consoles. I mean, simulation games about warring state period always end up turning bothersome due to the domestic affair stuff to me.



『I'll be right there Mia. Have the airship land in a safe zone.』

I was told that a Ghost Fleet led by Skeleton Archduke has appeared above Garleok City's sky.

According to the Map's marker column, Lady Karina and Princess Sistina seem to be in Garleon Temple on the ground, but these two should be fine without me hurrying to rescue them.

Now then, going back by sailing would take too much time.

That said, I can't go about abandoning the Allied Fleet either.

I decide to slightly alter the plan.

"The Golden Wheel is--"

A navigation officer who noticed the [Golden Wheel] in my hand letting out a solemn sound and golden light sounded surprised.

They're actually my magic handiworks though.

--The Golden Wheel has imparted me. It appears that a crisis is looming over Garleok City."

"N-no way!"

"Just when we managed to flee from the pirate fleet, now you're telling me that Garleok City too."

The navigation officer and the vice captain wailed sorrowfully to hear what I said.

Their reaction is only natural considering it means their family is in danger.

In order to proceed to the next act, I use Weather Control magic to call forth massive dark clouds and roughen the sea.

"Earl Pendragon! Couldn't you do something about it?"

"There is one thing."

I looked back at the vice captain whose face was illuminated by a flash of lightning, and powerfully nodded.

"O 『Golden Wheel』!"

While entrusting my embarrassment to [Poker Face]-sensei, I make use of [Amplification] and [Acting] skill to deliver my voice, loud enough to not lose to the sounds of winds and lightning strikes, to the flagship crew.

"Lend use your help to send these pious people who serve upon great God Garleon to his side!"

It ended up sounding like a funeral service somehow, but no one seemed to question it thanks to Acting and Deception skills.

"O 『Golden Wheel』!"

Matching the timing with the call, I lifted up the ship with [Magic Arm], and let it fly with wind magic and gravity magic.

I made the ship to shine golden light with [Illusion] magic as I lifted it up.

I've increased the downpour as I lift the ship up, worsening the field of view. For the sake of--.

"--Ships! There's ships around us!"

The crew who found silhouette of ships beyond the rain reported loudly.

I have gathered the allied fleet ships with markers on them using Space Magic teleportation here.

Since God Garleon's order was to display [Group Valor], I was thinking that engaging the Ghost Fleet with just a lone ship was a no go, therefore I've amassed our allied ships except for the ships that spread out to escape the pirates.

That's still only 10 ships though.

Since the Ghost Fleet seems to have more than 100 ships in their ranks, the power gap is a bit too large.

Thus, by making use of the poor visibility, I make the golem fleet that I've created beforehand to join us.

For now, having around 50 of them with us should be enough to make it look like a fleet vs fleet battle.

"Earl Pendragon, we're surrounded by unfamiliar warships!"

"Please be at ease. They're our allies. By the guidance of the Golden Wheel, God Garleon ships have been gathered here."

With the help of Deception skill, I convinced the officer that the warships are our allies.

Of course, my mana is running low after this much brute forcing, so I've taken a mana supply magic tool out of the Storage into my palm, and get replenishment from it.

"S-ships, flying in the sky?"

The temple knight commander-san who went down with a seasick right after

our departure crawled out of the cabin.

I wasn't sure if it was acceptable for a knight commander of a maritime nation, but since his day job usually involves protecting the temple, I guess there's no particularly huge problems in being weak with ships.

"It's a miracle by the great God Garleon!"

I declared powerfully.

Conclusive words are more persuasive in times like this.

As people's gratitudes and prayers probably have to reach God Garleon to fulfill his order, this method should be good.

"Hear me! Soldiers of Garleon Union!"

Toward the captains and crew of the consort ships who still hadn't caught up with the situations, I told them about the stuff imparted to me by the [Golden Wheel] and it being an oracle, about the crisis looming over Garleok City, and that we're now going on a rescue mission.

"Let us charge forward, soldiers! Lead our way, O 『Golden Wheel』!"

People eyes are gathered at the enlarged vision of the [Golden Wheel] I created with [Illusion] magic in front of the ship, and on top of that, I create a teleport gate ahead of it.

I make the enlarged illusion to shoot out a laser-like beam of light from the center to shine on the teleport gate, and make the gate itself to be glittering with light particles.

This much needlessly flashy show should be good enough to make it look like a [God's Miracle].

Since I'm used to making this kind of theatrical plays when I was developing events in my game development day, imagining this was relatively simple.

And--.

""""Oooooooooooooooooohhhhhhhhhh""""

""""GLORY TO GOD GARLEON!""""

""""GOD IS UPON US!""""

It seems to be [Super Effective] on the pure Garleon Union's people, their tensions are reaching sky high.

I linked the flying ships with the wheel and made them go ahead into the gate.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"--That's Garleok City!"

"There's black ships flying in the sky!"

"Pirates?"

"No! Those are the accursed ghost ships!"

Out of the gate, the crew who noticed the Ghost Fleet cruising above Garleok City made a commotion.

I put my Map's markers on the Ghost Fleet while I have the chance.

I mean, they just suddenly appeared above Garleok City out of nowhere after all.

"It's not just Ghost Ships!"

"I've never seen that monster before... It can't be, is that a demon!"

"You're mistaken."

I negated the anxious vice captain and officers who were making a ruckus.

"That's a spirit my companion has summoned forth. It's protecting Garleok City, so tell all escort ships not to attack it even by mistake."

It'd be troubling if they attacked Garuda that Mia summoned.

I look around and check out the Ghost Fleet's levels.

There's lots of level 20 small ghost ships and level 30 mid-sized ghost ships, but the numbers of level 40 and level 50 large-sized ghost ships aren't insignificant either.

There's also highly mobile Wraith Knights riding on black Pegasus among their ranks, they've been having skirmishes with Mia's Garuda since awhile ago.

『Mia, kept you waiting.』

『Nn, waited.』

I talked to Mia with space magic [Tactical Talk].

『Sistina-sama, could I trouble you with the command of Golem Fleet?』

Controlling 50 ships at once is bothersome after all.

『I understand. Please send me back to the airship as I'll be using the Thousand Throne.』

I returned Princess Sistina to the airship with Unit Arrangement.

She also told me that the Skeleton Archduke showed up at the Main Temple and his objective was the [Golden Wheel].

Karina-sama is--there.

I saw Lady Karina running vertically on a tower's wall.

She runs on the wall and leaps to the sky.

At the end of her path, there's a ghost ship releasing a black depth charge down below.

"KA-RI-NAAAAAAAAAAKIIIIIIIIIIIIIIICK!"

She pierced the ghost ship from its bottom to the deck while leaving a blue trail of light behind.

She kicked off the mast of the instantly sunk ghost ship, leaping toward another ghost ship and single handedly routed the undeads on the deck.

Yup, these stuff are more suited for God Heraruon's trial.

『Karina-sama, I'm here with reinforcements. Please return to the flagship over here.』

『I got it! Sa-Satou, d-did you see my...』

『I did, you were really wonderful. Please do continue after you've returned to

the flagship.』

After I said that, Lady Karina cheerfully bounced toward the flagship.

"Earl Pendragon, please accept this."

Looking at the source of the voice, an officer offered an admiral-like hat and coat to me.

"This is?"

"It's a proof of Admiral."

This'll save me the trouble of acquiring the commands, but is it really ok?

"The decision isn't solely decided by me. Other escort ship captains have also sent flags and signals agreeing to have the right command transferred to you."

"Earl Pendragon, abiding by the master of the 『Golden Wheel』 is a consensus of the allied fleet. Please accept the proof of it."

Pushed on the back by the temple knight commander's words, I accept the hat and coat from the officer.

I go up to the fleet admiral's seat as I put the hat on.

"All hands! First of all, let's drive the Ghost Fleet away from Garleok City!"

With my command, the fleet began its march toward the Ghost Fleet.



"Admiral! Seven black knights are coming from starboard direction!"

"Don't focus all your attentions on them! Concentrate on the large hostile warship before us!"

Golden bands coming down from the sky obstructed the Wrait Knights that were flying on their way to the flagship.

『Thank you, Mia.』

『Nn, protect.』

The golden bands were obstructions sent by Garuda who's standing by above the Golden Fleet.

One of the Wraith Knights that were forced to take a detour seemingly couldn't give up as it tried to make a dive bomb from above.

"KARINAAAAAAKIIIIIIICK!"

Lady Karina ran up the mast and intercepted that.

"Been waiting for 'er, the Brawling Princess!"

"Kicking Princess, yer' the best!"

"Dayum, she's strong, she sunk some ghost ships too earlier."

"Yeah well, she got a Kraken yesterday ain't she, our fleet is unfleeting s'long Brawling Princess' with us."

Crew on the deck raised their arms above and applaud Lady Karina with

nicknames, like Brawling Princess and Kicking Princess.

Putting that aside, the last one with the bad pun was being ignored, he looked so lonely.

"Dem vertical roll's amazing--it ain't getting messy even tho' she moved around that much, how'd that even work."

"The heck's with ya! The awesome one's definitely that chest of hers!"

"True, I want her be my wife."

Looks like there isn't an insignificant number of people who are getting distracted by silly stuff.

"Great~?"

"As expected of Karina nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi who showed up from my shadow are cheering Lady Karina on with folding fans written with [Victory] and [Friendship] in their hands.

We could have easily annihilated the Wraith Knights if we borrowed these two's power, but that wouldn't count as a display of [Group Valor].

"Admiral! We're about to enter the range of the enemy's black cursed cannons!"

"Fire the Mana Cannons!"

I concentrate on firing mana cannons from outside the range to drive them away from Garleok City's sky.

For now, the enemy is moving like intended, retreating from Garleok City's sky.

"Admiral, this is a trap. We'll be surrounded by the enemy ships if we keep this up."

I agree with the temple knight commander.

I know that it's a trap.

However, driving the ghost fleet out of Garleok City's sky takes priority.

The damage would have extended to Garleok City's civilians if this kept up.

Fortunately, all other ships besides the main 10 are Golem Ships in our fleet, thus we can safely ignore damage on our fleet by making use of that fact.

And besides, pretending to be caught in a trap only to turn it around sounds like it'll be more popular with the civilians.



"Admiral, we're getting surrounded."

"This should be far enough."

We've succeeded luring the Ghost Fleet away from Garleok City's sky.

This position is perfect as it can be seen from Garleok City yet won't damage the city.

"Kuha, kuhahahahaha--foolish mongrels! I shall grant you a peaceful death if you promptly hand over the 『Golden Wheel』! Or perhaps, you prefer eternal servitude... Kuha, kuhahahahaha!"

We could hear the Skeleton Archduke's declaration of victory from a

conspicuously large ghost ship.

Looks like he's so elated about it he even breaks out an amplification magic tool to brag.

"A-admiral"

"Don't worry. They haven't completely encircled us yet."

I fixed the admiral hat's angle as I spoke to the frightened first mate.

"All hands! We're done being passive! We're gonna break through the enemy encirclement and turn the tide around!"

I encouraged the fleet with the help of [Acting] skill.

『Sistina-sama, if you would please. Command the golem fleet onto the planned course.』

『Understood!』

Princess Sistina replied with an unusually high-spirited voice.

『Mia, please bring Garuda closer.』

『Tempest?』

Mia asked me if I wanted to use Garuda's finisher.

『Nah, let's save that for a bit later. First, let karina-sama ride on Garuda so she could break through the enemy encirclement.』

『Nn, gotcha.』

"Karina-sama, please ride on Garuda and make a mess out of the front line."

"I got it! I'll show you a fight that'll make Sa-Satou praise me."

To Lady Karina who weirdly set up a death flag, I say, "I'm looking forward to that. But please take care not to get hurt okay."

Holding her hands felt like it would have put Lady Karina's Ditzzy Engine straight into turbo, thus I refrained from doing so.

『Follow after my ship!』

I gave an order with [Amplification] skill, and smoothly control the ship toward a gap in the Ghost Fleet's encirclement that I perceived.

"Rapid fire mana blasts desuwa!"

Looks like she's defaulting to overkilling with Magic Edge Cannons, since her Karina Kick would end up in her falling to sea.

It's probably an advice from Tama and Pochi who are peeking out of her shadows.

『Tama』

『Yes~?』

『Could I ask you to do something?』

『Okay~?』

『Pochi wants to do it too nodesuyo!』

『Then, it's an errand for you two.』

I ask Cat Ninja Tama and Dog Hero Pochi to take care of advertising in the city.

Mainly to spread news that the Golden Fleet is God Garleon's miracle.

While I was doing such backdoor dealings, Lady Karina managed to wrench open a hole in the Ghost Ship encirclement.

The ghost ships begin to scramble in a hurry, but every ship gets in the way of every other ship, they cannot steer their ships well it seems.

"Push back the enemy fleet with the column formation! Keep firing the mana cannons as we head outside the encirclement! Focus on hostile ships that are going for the flagship!"

Following my order, our fleet is encircling the ghost fleet in a long thin formation, shooting volleys of mana cannons toward the ghost fleet all the while.

As mana cannons aren't enough against mid-class and large-class ghost ships, I finished those off with [Explosions] after they were hit enough times.

Of course, it can't be a one-sided offensive.

Cannonballs from the ghost ships' black cursed cannons hit several golem ships, destroying their mast and armors, sinking them down in the process.

"What amazing firepower."

"Yeah, we'd go under if they hit us with those."

The navigator and the temple knight commander had such a conversation.

These temple knights have nothing to do since there's no close quarter skirmish going on for now.

"O 『Golden Wheel』! Exemplify the glory of God Garleon!"

I shouted out something random, wrapped the allied fleet in golden light with Illusion magic and used that timing to buff each ships with protective magic.

I held back and only made it so each ship could defend against around 10 black cursed cannon's shots.

Increasing the bombardment as we circle around the Ghost Ships.

"M-my eyes, they're spinning."

"Shoot, shoot, shoooooooooooooot!"

"Glory to GOOOOOOOOOOOOD!"

While ignoring the high-tensioned flagship crew, I concentrate on steadily whittling down the enemy fleet.

Rings of gold and red are formed in the sky as our fleet whittle down the pursuing ghost fleet from outside, while red and black cannonballs are flying around.

I also mix in [Explosion] here and there whenever.

Thanks partly to that unfair technique, the pirate fleet is decreasing fast, we can feel our victory already.

""""GARLEON! GARLEON! GARLEON!""""

People in Garleok City and the high-rise rampart are repeatedly calling God Garleon's name.

Looks like Tama and Pochi's advertisement was a huge success.

It'd be nice and easy if this stays until the end--

--Looks like things won't go that well."

While muttering that, I glared at the only ship that had changed its course; the Skeleton Archduke's flagship.

16–34. Garleon Union (10)

Satou here. It’s quite hard to produce results that can make the client 100% satisfied. That is because, oftentimes, what the client said is not everything there is to it to their demand; their true demand lies implied beyond their words.



“Admiral Pendragon, look at that!”

The navigator called for my attention with a desperate look on his face. Right when the tide had almost completely turned to our favor at the coastal waters of Garleok City, a gigantic ghost ship charged forward alone toward our ship, the fleet’s flagship.

“It has the Skeleton Archduke flag on it!”

This seems to be a ploy by the Skeleton Archduke.

“I am Heaven Dweller, I know no defeat!”

The gigantic ghost ship opened its bow like a shark and then several ships flew out of it.

Those ships look familiar.

“–Pirate ships?”

“Admiral, those are the pirate ships we fought with!”

“There are some Union’s escort’s ships too!”

It’s just as the first mate and officers said, the ships that came out of the gigantic ghost ship’s mouth belonged to the pirate fleet and the escort fleet.
The fake Skeleton Archduke young man is on board of the leading pirate ship.

“What sinister looks...”

And those ships have all been turned into ghost ships.
The fake Skeleton Archduke seems to be muttering grudges with hollow eyes.

“This is the power of Skeleton Archduke....”

Voices filled with fear leak out of the flagship crew.
This could get a bit bad if it kept up.

“KARINAKIIIIIIIIICK!”

Lady Karina who has accomplished her duty on the front lines unleashed a flashy diving kick from the sky toward the pirate ghost ships.
Then it pierced through not one, not two but three ships all at once.
Really, this scene looks similar to one from a classic masterpiece anime.

Eventually, Lady Karina sunk into the ocean while leaving a huge water column behind.

Looks like she did the kick without thinking what to do at the end.
That really is like Lady Karina.

“Splaa~sh”

“Oh no nanodesu! Karina is drowning nodesuyo!”

The two who were done with their propaganda work showed their face from my shadow as they gazed at the water column Lady Karina created.

“Sorry, but could you help collect Karina-sama for me?”

“Nininin~?”

“Pochi will go to nodesu!”

As my [Magic Hand] can’t reach that far, I ask Tama and Pochi to deal with the rescue.

“WOOOOOOOOO!”

“Kicking Princess went and did it!”

Lady Karina’s reckless abandon quickly raised the flagship crew morale.

『Cull?』

『Yea, please do.』

I gave my approval to Mia's suggestion.

Now that the morale is high, let's cull out the majority of the pirate ghost ships with Garuda's finishing move.

It may not conform with God Garleon's order, but faith and prayers to God Garleon should have increased enough after this much, and most importantly, we'd be heading straight to a battle with underwater undeads if this continued on.

『Tempest』

The golden feathers of Garuda fly around as they cut up the pirate ghost fleet everywhere.

That's what I call a big haul.

“–Hostile on starboard!”

The navigator suddenly shouted.

Looks like the gigantic Ghost Ship is trying to forcefully push its way through Tempest and ram us.

『I won't let you!』

A golem ship controlled by Princess Sistina got in the way of the gigantic Ghost Ship, but due to the huge difference in mass, the golem ship got hit on the side by the gigantic ramming horn and sunk.

Though, thanks to that, our ship narrowly avoided the ramming horn and managed to avoid getting sunk despite the intense sparks produced from the colliding ship's flank.

“You lots, attack!”

Ghost sailors with scimitars in their hands are surging onto the flagship (ours).

“Filthy undeads! Extolled at Garleon Temple, I–”

The Temple Knight Commander gleefully intercepted them while naming himself. Since this seems to be the final clash, I also draw my Fairy Blade and intercept the undead next to the Temple Knight Commander.

“You must be the 『Golden Wheel』 master!”

Skeleton Archduke carrying a bluish black adamantite rapier let out a thrust

toward the Temple Knight Commander.

Looks like he mistook the Commander for me.

“You must be the ringleader!”

Temple Knight Commander’s mithril sword clad in Magic Edge blocked a black string-like thing.

That black string comes from the Skeleton Archduke’s shadow.

Since the Archduke doesn’t seem to be a reincarnated person, he must have used a Shadow Veil lurking in his shadow.

I observe their fight while kicking and slashing the incoming Bone Knights with my Fairy Sword.

“Nuu”

Skeleton Archduke’s rapier went for the kinks in commander’s armor faster than the commander could back step.

However, that rapier was blocked by a protective film created by holy magic that Knight Commander used.

“Hmph, holy magic huh!”

The Skeleton Archduke groaned, and then a crowd of beast-like Ghoul appeared behind him, and came rushing down the Temple Knight Commander.

“You damn coward!”

“Ridiculous! I’m merely punishing a lowborn, knightly etiquette have no place here!”

Skeleton Archduke laughed off the commander’s protest.

Well then, that means it’s fine for me to intervene too.

“Let me help.”

I flashed the Fairy Sword and turned the Ghouls back into corpses one after another.

“Gununu, are you a knight serving the 『Golden Wheel』 master!”

“No, I’m that master in the flesh.”

I take out the [Golden Wheel] from my bosom and let the Skeleton Archduke take a peek on it.

“HANDITOVEEEEEEEER”

Skeleton Archduke is lunging at me along with a suspicious looking black aura.

I exchanged swords with Skeleton Archduke while jumping around left and right decks of the gigantic ghost ship and the flagship, scattering red and black sparks all the while.

After a few hundreds clashes, Skeleton Archduke stopped and opened his mouth while striking a weird pose.

“You measly aboriginal mongrel, how dare you fight on par with this strongest swordsman of Lalakie with a sword!”

“Don’t think my birthplace has anything to do with my skills with swords though.”

“Silence! Die by my sword, lowborn!”

Skeleton Archduke is enraged while moving suspiciously.

“–Phantom Rampage!”

He unleashed a buckshot like multi-stab attack clad in dark red aura. Looks like his queer pose earlier was the initial move of his finisher.

With the fairy sword in hand, I duteously parry all the stabs of what seems to be the Skeleton Archduke’s finisher.

Man, the sparks are dazzling.

This should be a good time to lower the veil of this battle.

“This cannot be! A savage’s bastard sword parrying my blade, me a Heaven Dweller?!”

Well, I think even Liza and Tama could do it.

Anyway.

–It’s a checkmate.

I sheathe my sword back after one final slash.

“Why are you sheathing your sword? Have you realized that you’re no match for me?”

Skeleton Archduke dubiously posed a question as the red light inside his eyes flickered.

“Have you not noticed yet?”

Skeleton Archduke’s body begins to crumble into black ash, starting from his fingertips and body surface.

When we entered the wharf, people who had gathered at the port cheered for God Garleon while I was heading to Garleon Temple with the temple knights as the guard.

Since there were lots of houses that grew flowers in their garden and balcony, we were showered with flower petals until we reached the temple.
Makes me kinda feel like being a hero bridegroom or something.



“Welcome back—God’s Trial accomplisher.”

When I arrived at Garleon Main Temple, the male miko—Shaman Sauani boy welcomed me.

“Now then, let us report to God.”

I don’t mind him casually trying to take me to the ceremony room, but I kindly flicked away his hand as he tried to coil it around my waist.

Sauani boy muttered, “you’re so cold”, but I pretend not to hear it.

Just like with the trial-taking ceremony, I report to God Garleon through Sauani boy.

『—Splendid. I bestow you my mark.』

His line was exactly the same as God Heraruon, but voices mixed with irritation and satisfaction, saying, “Overproduction”, “Prayers enough”, “Scheme lacking”, “Faith enough”, “Lack tactical reversal” also reached me at the same time, but since my goal is to clear the [God’s Trial] and gather the Marks, there’s no particular problem here.

- > Title [Garleon’s Mark] Acquired.
- > Title [One Approved by Garleon] Acquired.
- > Title [Garleon Saint] Acquired.
- > Title [Garleon Apostle] Acquired.
- > Title [Charade] Acquired.
- > Title [Overproduction] Acquired.
- > Title [Stage Director] Acquired.
- > Title [Poor Schemer] Acquired.

Okay, I know that you can’t get behind it, but please don’t override the Title system just to show your dissatisfaction.

After a short dialogue with God, I return to my consciousness at the temple. Lights coming down from heavens gather into one and transformed into a gaudy scepter.

I catch it as it slowly falls down.

According to AR readings, it's [Golden Scepter Garleauph], a kind of [Divine Treasures].

Just like [Golden Dagger Heraruseph] I got from God Heraruon that was adorned with a small Sun Stone on the grip, this scepter has a blue gem—Sea God Stone on its tip.

It seems to be a support tool for holy magic.

This would be a good match for Sera, but it's probably a bad idea to let someone who believes in another God to use a Divine Treasure of another God.

"Hee, this is the first time I've seen someone bestowed with a Divine Treasure."

Sauani boy who has come to stares at the scepter in amazement.

"Mind if I touch it?"

"Feel free to."

I offer the scepter to Sauani boy.

He curiously looks at the scepter from all angles.

The other priests and miko(s) around us are prostrating, what a difference.

"Thank you, it's really amazing."

Sauani boy gave back the scepter without a shred of reluctance.

The other priests and miko(s) looking so disappointed makes for an interesting contrast.

"If Garleon Temple wishes to enshrine it, I would love to hand it—"

"Naw, you don't have to. I mean, that's something bestowed to you by God Garleon, and most importantly, we now know that the Main Temple has the blessing of the great god Garleon and the invincible 『Golden Wheel』 divine treasure from this matter."

—I'm sorry, most of it was my own doing.

I feel a slight guilt to see Sauani boy's refreshing face.

The priests and miko(s) look like they really want it, but since none dares to tell

me to push back Sauani boy, I put the Scepter into my bosom and straight into my Storage.

–Hm?

An image of him clicking his tongue flashed in my mind for an instant, must be my imagination.

I left Garleon Main Temple, enjoyed a banquet held by Garleok City, and departed Garleon Union.

“Sa-Satou! There’s something between the clouds!”

Some times after we departed Garleok City’s airport, Lady Karina found a black flying object in the horizon.

According to the Map info—.

“That seems to be a Saga Empire airship.”

Moreover, it’s a large warship type.

Think it’s the same shape as the airship that Hero Meiko rode to the Weasel Empire.

Furthermore, a different summoned hero is on board of it.

“Did they perhaps come to save Garleon Union from crisis?”

“They might be.”

I agree with the princess.

Since demons were involved, it won’t be weird if heroes are mobilized. There’s probably no way Saga Empire would go on an aggression with the heroes leading.

After observing the situation for a bit, I change the airship course toward our destination.



“Here’s your souvenirs.”

“Uwaa! That’s some fresh looking sea bream and octopus!”

“We have oyster and mussel too here.”

Garleok City’s octopus and shellfish are superb, I’d love to treat the girls and Echigoya Firm peeps with it.

“Did you buy them from the market?”

“Nah, the sea bream was from the mermaids I saved in the iceberg incident.”

They went and brought fresh sea bream on the back of dolphins to Garleok City and all.

“How are you going to cook ‘em?”

“Sashimi for the sea bream—but it’d get too repetitive if we keep eating that only, so I think I’ll make half into carpaccio. As for the oyster—”

“I want it raw!”

Arisa who fears no stomachache raised her hand and insisted.

Well, even if she gets one, we can just cure her with panacea or elixir, so it’s all fine.

“Got it. I’ll put some ice on the platter to go along with it. Oh and sorry, we’re out of lemon, could you get them for me.”

“Okay!”

Arisa teleported to the lemon orchard.

“Think we should stay on the safe side and go with paella for the mussel?”

“Yes, I’ll give it my all!”

I hand over a basket full of shellfish to Lulu and think up the side menu while muttering, “Wonder what I should make next.”

“Meat~?”

“Pochi is happy with either fish or shellfish like she is with meat nodesu.”

Since the meat lovers Tama and Pochi proposed an amendment, I think about meat dish that goes well with paella.

Meal really is the funnest with your friends.

An urgent message came up in such peaceful times.

“Satou-sama! We’ve got a contact from Zena-san at Seryuu city—”

Looks like something happened to Zena who was visiting her home.

16-35. Earl Seryuu's Foster Daugther (1)

Satou here. There was this time I was surprised to see the scenery in my hometown changing more than expected when I came back after a long time.

Especially when places you often went to play as a kid turned into a mansion or a skyscraper, feels like your memories have been polluted doesn't it.



"Master, look over there!"

Arisa who's bending her body forward at the coach seat box shouted out loud while pointing at the megalith formation ahead.

It's a ruin from the era of ancient Orc Empire that looks like three-stranded torii-like stones.

We found it when we began our journey off Seryuu city back then.

"A broken Travel Gate huh.... This takes me back."

We're currently heading to Seryuu City after receiving Zena-san's messages.

After confirming the situations using the Map and through space magic, it didn't seem like an emergency so we decided to go on a wagon like when we departed Seryuu City per Arisa's suggestion.

Only the same members who left Seryuu City back then are coming with me.

Lady Karina wanted to go with us too, but she was dragged somewhere by the princess and Sera, saying that they needed a fitting adjustment for a new dress or something.

"The way Master now, you could fix it right?"

"Well yeah, I could."

I can fix or even make a new one, but I don't plan to do so for the time being.

A Travel Gate would need a vast amount of mana to activate, and since the mana from Seryuu City's Source is currently being siphoned by the [Devil's Labyrinth], doing so would be bad in many senses.

"Think we can see Seryuu City soon?"

"Oh we still have around a hour left."

Wagons are slow after all.



"Show me your ID--Hm? You look familiar."

Knight Soun was the one who stopped us at Seryuu City's gate.

If I'm not mistaken, he was also the one who processed my entry when I first came here.

"I remember now! You're Miss Zena's friend aren't you."

Knight Soun who smiled manly had a look like he recalled something and then he sent a pitying look at me.

"Well, this world doesn't consist of only bad things, don't let it get to ya."

"--O-ok."

Not understanding what Knight Soun who whacked my back was meaning to say, I involuntarily tilted my head in confusion.

"More importantly, let me have your ID."

I give my ID to him.

"Silver ID?"

Knight Soun look puzzled for a second but that quickly changed into shock.

"E-earl-sama? O-on top of that, Earl Pendragon? That Demon Lord Slayer, Pendragon?"

The shaken Knight Soun's eyes make repeated round trips between the ID and me.

"--Ah, no. Please excuse my impoliteness. Your excellency Earl Pendragon! Allow me to guide you to the castle!"

Knight Soun apologized for his rudeness, sent a gatekeeper to deliver a message to the Earl Castle, and called another gatekeeper to bring his horse here.

"No, just send a message there. I still have some business to take care of, I plan to visit the Earl once it's over."

I firmly refused Knight Soun who was still trying to guide us, then we brought our wagon to the Gate Inn.

The inn that was destroyed by monsters during the Divine Punishment has been completely rebuilt now.

"Yuni~?"

"There's Yuni here nodesu!"

"Eh? Tama-chan? And Pochi-chan too!"

Tama and Pochi found the maid Yuni who was sweeping the front door, they jumped off the wagon and ran to her.

"What's wrong Yuni? Why'd you throw your broom--Satou-san! Mom, it's Satou-san!"

The Gate Inn's poster girl who came out of the door, Martha-can hugged me as I got off the wagon.

She's still the same--no, she's grown up nicely in the last two years.

It shouldn't be long till she surpasses Gate Inn's landlady (Morta)-san.

"It's been a while, Martha-chan. Did the inn undergo a renovation?"

"Un, many things happened while Satou-san wasn't around. You're staying here right? Let's talk a lot inside!"

Martha-can pulled my arm into Gate Inn.

She's as forceful as always.

"Lulu, please park our wagon in the courtyard. Mia, you can go ahead and greet the Manager if you want to."

"Yes, I understand."

"Nn, I'm going."

"Mia, I will go with you so I inform."

Looks like Nana will be Mia's escort.

"Oh my, long time no see. I'm really grateful for the other day."

Gate Inn's landlady said her thanks for the souvenirs I sent along with the letter for Yuni.

"No no, it was just an extra with the letter. Do you have rooms for eight people today?"

"A-aah--I'm sorry, but we only have rooms for four today."

The landlady looked awkward as she said that.

By the way, according to the Map, half of the rooms here are available.

--Ah, right.

I had forgotten since we were able to normally stay in inns everywhere we went to, but demi-humans besides Fairykin are persecuted in Seryuu City and can't even stay in a lodging.

--Liza."

Liza silently readied her spear when I called her.

The landlady and the other girls got frightened when they saw that.

"Not that. Your ID."

"I-I'm sorry."

I got Liza who interpreted me wrong to put her spear back and urged her to show her ID to the landlady.

"ID? --Honorary Viscountess Kishresgalza? Are you serving as a retainer of a

noble somewhere?"

The landlady is looking restlessly to behind Liza.

"That's not it, that's her ID you see."

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

I showed my own ID as I said that.

"Earl? Satou-san--no, Satou-sama was a noble all along?"

"Amazing! Earl, it's

that

earl right? Satou-san, you're amazing!"

The landlady's face went pale, but Martha-chan is looking ecstatic.

Martha-chan takes my ID and reads the words one by one.

"Tama too~?"

"Pochi too Pochi too, she's a honorary barneinet nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi tout out their own IDs as they line up next to Liza.

Pochi got honorary baronet wrong but since no one came forward to correct her, I'll tell her about it later.

"I-I can't believe it... Lizardkin and beastkin, nobles?"

"Uwaa! Mom! Mom, hey mom! It's amazing! Pendragon! Satou-san was Earl Pendragon-sama!"

Martha-chan beat the landlady's shoulder who seemed to find it unbelievable.

I know that you're excited and all, but now the neighbors are peeking here curiously due to the commotion you're making at the Inn's front door.

"By Pendragon--you mean that Demon Lord Slayer?"

"Yes, that's correct."

I gave an affirmation to the landlady.

"Then, one of Earl Pendragon's Knights, the lizardkin who won over Julberg-sama is--"

"That's me."

"Tama is a ninja~?"

"Pochi is a samurai nanodesu!"

Tama and Pochi made an appeal next to Liza who nodded.

"Which means, you girls are the demon lord slayers?"

"Yes, we were granted peerage as a commendation for the feat."

Looks like she's acknowledged that Liza is Honorary Viscountess Kishresgalza.

"And so, would it be alright if we stay here?"

"Y-yes, since you're nobles, anyone who has a problem could be silenced--"

Just as I thought, some people would have a problem with it huh.

"--But, wouldn't it be better for noble-sama to stay at a high-class inn at the other side of the inner wall instead of our commoner inn?"

"No, we're planning to visit the castle tomorrow so--"

We're probably only staying for one night anyway, I'd rather stay at a place with memories than somewhere slightly more luxurious.

I follow after Martha-chan who's showing the way to our room and head to the stairs, but Pochi and Tama aren't coming for some reason.

"--Pochi, Tama. Over here."

"Nyu~?"

"Not at the stable nanodesu?"

They looked dejected somehow.

Later when I asked them, apparently, they wanted make a bed of straws at

the stable and bounce around in it.

"Will maid-san stay in the same room too?"

"Y-yes!"

Lulu reflexively answered Martha-chan.

"Ahaha, Lulu is a noble too like us you know."

Arisa corrected her in Lulu's place while laughing.

"No way! She's a noble yet she drives the wagon?"

"We usually have a dedicated employee for it, but she asked to hold the rein for today since she was feeling nostalgic."

"Hee, really."

Martha-chan who got it apologized to Lulu, "I'm sorry for my mistakes."

After leaving dummy baggage in the room, we went to the [Handymen] where Mia and Nana were waiting.

"Long time no see, Satou-san--no, your excellency Earl Pendragon."

Handyman Nadi-san bowed like a court maid after saying that.

Looks like this knowledgeable girl is well versed in such etiquettes too.

"Satou."

"It's been awhile, Manager."

The manager of Handymen, Elf Yusalatoya-shi saluted while sitting in the sofa.

"Gratitudes."

The Manager gave his thanks while lifting up a bundle of letter and souvenirs.

All of them are stuff his relatives and friends entrusted to me when I came to Boruenan Forest to visit Aze-san.

Nadi-san offered us chairs and everyone had tea together.

By the way, the tea cake was my handmade.

After a bit of pleasant chat, the door was flung open and a boy in military officer outfit jumped in.

"Is his excellency Earl Pendragon here!"

He looks familiar.

The military officer boy muttered, "Black hair, foreigner-like features--no doubt about it", and then he bowed at me.

"Long time no--"

Oops, not good.

"--No, this is the first time we met face to face isn't it."

I gloss over my blunder with the help of [Poker Face] skill sensei, get off of the sofa and turn to the boy.

"Nice to meet you, Yukel Marientail-dono."

That's right, this military officer boy is Zena-san's younger brother.

I've met him before as Kuro, but this is our first meeting with me as Satou.

"I've been hearing a lot about you from your sister, it didn't feel like this was our first time meeting."

After saying that, I introduced myself with full name.

"I have been tasked by Earl Seryuu to welcome his excellency Pendragon. Would you be willing to grace us with your presence?"

"Yes, of course."

I gave an affirmation to the nervous-looking Zena-san's younger brother and turned around to the girls.

"Well then, I'll be heading out for a bit to meet Earl-sama."

"I will accompany you Master."

"Leave it to me~?"

"It's like having 100 men with Pochi around nanodesu."

"Proceeding to escort Master, so I announce."

"Ah no, I'll be fine without an escort."

All of them immediately offered their company, but since there should be nothing dangerous about this, I tell them that there's no need for escorts.

It may be a bit cold, but I need them to do something else.

"Should I go with you? It won't look good on you if you don't have any escort with you, you know?"

"Then, I will go."

Arisa was right, so I took her and Lulu with me.

Mia looked like she wanted to go too, but since it had been awhile since she met the manager, I told her to stay at the [Handymen] for.

"Now then, let's go."

We got on board an open wagon parked outside the Handymen and I urged Yukel boy who was riding a horse to depart.

Now then, just what is waiting for us at Earl Seryuu's castle.

Judging from my conversation with Zena-san through Telephone, she sounded hesitant about something, so it's probably something to do with either Yukel boy's engagement or Zena-san herself.

Well since a pointlessly vast amount of capital and authority have been falling my way lately, I can generally guess what it is about, and I won't hesitate to use them if it's for the sake of my friend, Zena-san and her family.

It'd be nice if it's something simple and easy to solve though.

I muttered quietly while looking up at Earl Seryuu's castle that had come into

view.

16-36. Earl Seryuu's Foster Daughter (2)

Satou here. I tend to see a lot of foster girls and adopted children in news and fictions, but never from people I'm close with. It's probably not something that happens a lot.



"--Sir Pendragon."

Yukel-kun came to talk to me after we park the wagon and horses near the castle gate.

"Are you really, with Aneue--" <TLN: lit. "elder sister", formal.>

"Sir Marientail."

Another knight who was accompanying us interrupted Yukel-kun.

It kinda feels like they don't want to let me talk with Yukel-kun.

Let's ignore the mood here and make the initiative to talk to Yukel-kun myself.

"Marie--"

"Sir Pendragon!"

Another voice interrupted me at a bad timing.

"--Your Excellency Earl."

Of all people, it was Earl Seryuu.

I can't exactly ignore him and talk to Yukel-kun instead here.

We may be of the same rank, but as he rules over a City Core, his position is higher than mine.

Earl Seryuu seems to have been from an excursion, he's riding a splendid looking white steed.

"Pardon me for my long absence. Earl Seryuu."

"I've heard that you've been very active like always, Earl Pendragon."

Earl Seryuu who got off of his horse invited me to his castle like we had been friends for 10 year after hugging me in an oddly friendly manner.

Make me all the more suspicious for his ulterior motives.

The way Earl Seryuu act right now seemed to be a rare occurrence, servants and bureaucrats who caught sight of us lowered their head with surprised looks on their faces.

"--First of all, I would like to express my gratitudes. Thanks to your assistances, the matter with labyrinth management will likely start in earnest by new year time."

Earl Seryuu said so once we settled down in the castle's parlor.

It's probably about how I helped his subordinates to be made into Explorer Guild's assistants at the labyrinth city, Selbira.

"Please think nothing of it. It's all the results of your excellency's subordinates blood and tears."

"Oh stop with 'your excellency' stuff. You'd remind me to call you that yourself, being a cabinet minister and all. Just call me Ros."

Earl Roswald Seryuu requested for something unreasonable.

"Then, Roswald-sama."

"That's still too cold but acceptable. Mind if I call you Satou-dono?"

I give my consent to Earl Seryuu.

"Satou-dono, as for the reward I promised you, we have 2000 demi human slaves currently working to build facilities for the labyrinth management. However, due to the number and all, the office folks told me to ask you around half a month time for the transfer period."

"Then, allow me to make arrangements for the airships needed to transport the slaves. Since I think that we will get our airship allotment turn within a year, I will be sure to dispatch a delegation from Muno Marquisdom early on."

Let's forward all the responsibilities for this to Consul Nina of Muno Marquisdom.

I'm sure she'd happily welcome them with open arms, as the territory lack the manpower needed for the towns and cities recaptured from monsters, including the city I'm managing, Brighton.

I plan to release them all once they've become self-sufficient.

"Airships to transport demi human? Can't you just have them walk to Muno territory."

"I cannot even begin to fathom the expenses needed for such method."

I replied back in kind to the earl who asked in amazement.

I'd hate to hazard the number of victims that would show up if I were to let 2000 demi human slaves, whose levels are mostly at single digit, walk to Muno Marquisdom.

"I've also put out a ban on demi-human discrimination just as I've promised."

Earl Seryuu looks proud somehow.

But despite that, the attitudes in Gate Inn and stuff felt the same as always.

"Fumu, judging from your displeased looks, you must want to say that discriminations still remain even now, don't you."

His eyes kinda look like a teacher admonishing a kid who did a poor job.

"Of course, we've not only issued an edict, y'know? We have soldiers who regularly patrol around the city and punish anyone who throw around unjustifiable violences on demi-humans."

Apparently, there were even citizens who got executed for breaking the ban.

"The sense of discriminations within the citizens is deep-rooted. The complete abolishment of discriminations in its truest sense probably won't happen for a long time."

I guess that's only natural.

There would be no hardships if discriminations would disappear simply by

having the statesmen ban it.

Even with the law in effect, it probably only means a shift of locations to where the eyes of statesmen don't reach.

The reason is similar to why bullying at schools hasn't disappeared.

Even so, a prohibition from the statesmen is still necessary as the first step to dispel discriminations.

And I think there is only one path to that, a path where people have to learn to change the perception from "bad things" to "things not worth doing."

Afterwards, having the demi-humans show that their existence bring benefit to everyone is also effective.

"As for the other reward--"

Earl Seryuu changed the topic.

Now, he's probably going to check the matter about making Miss Auna my wife, and Zena-san my mistress.

"About your engagement."

Figured.

"So when are you going to take my daughter, Auna as your wife, and Zena of Marientail House as your mistress again."

He's coming at it straight huh.

"Regarding that--"

Earl Seryuu raised his hand to stop me while I was hesitating.

"So you really do not wish for it."

--Oh?

"His Majesty and the prime minister have given me a stern warning. Do not force you to have a marriage you do not wish for, they said."

Oh, PM and King, good job.

"Please call off the matter about my engagement."

"Very well then."

Earl Seryuu consented willingly.

Phew, another load off my shoulder.

"However, were I to withdraw a reward I have promised, the jabbering old household nobles at the Royal Capital would force me to wear the miser stigma around."

Earl Seryuu words reached my ears as I let out a sigh of relief.

"In exchange, I will raise the number of magic cores that will be provisioned to Muno Marquisdom from our labyrinth."

Earl Seryuu put up three fingers as he said that.

"By my own discretion, I promise you to accommodate three times the planned amount. I will prepare the documents later. Do deliver them to Marquis Muno."

I didn't realize at this time, but by Echigoya Firm's manager's account, the amount is comparable to the amount the earldom pays to the kingdom.

"Have you ever talked with Zena's little brother?"

"No, it was my first time meeting him earlier."

I talked a lot with him as Kuro, but only made a greeting as Satou.

"He might not be at the level of Satou-dono, but he is quite a knight himself."

Earl Seryuu began to boast about Yukel-kun.

Apparently, Yukel-kun's peerage rank will be raised as a commendation for his feats in the fight against the greater demon and in the Labyrinth Hazard defense war.

And it's not just to Baronet that's just above Chevalier--.

"Baron, is it. That's wonderful."

"Umu. He's the first to climb to Baron since me, and accumulating feats enough to propel one from Chevalier to Baron hadn't been done since the days of my grandfather."

Unlike in my former world, as the nobles in this world aren't given land to govern, letting a noble by blood to ascend the peerage means way higher fixed cost for the lord of said noble.

"--Silver Knight Air."

Earl Seryuu spoke that name with a suggestive tone.

"That was what the knight who slew a greater demon as she flew in the air called herself."

"I wonder if she is related somehow to Hero Nanashi-sama and his Golden Knights?"

With the help of Poker Face skill, I ignore past Earl Seryuu's bait.

"I'm in the same opinion. She wielded a holy sword that could fly in the sky not unlike the Claiomh Solais."

Looks like Earl Seryuu bore witness to that fight.

"Someone amongst the people who witnessed that fight told me. That there is a girl whose fighting style resembles that of Silver Knight Air in my territory."

I have a feeling that Earl Seryuu is aware that Zena-san is Silver Knight Air.

Since Zena-san is weak at keeping secret, she'd probably spill it out the moment he interrogated her.

Well, I'm not too worried even if he knew.

"What about you, Satou-dono. Do you know anyone who fights like Silver Knight Air?"

"Unfortunately, as I never saw how the Silver Knight Air-dono fights myself."

"Is that so. Sorry to ask for the unreasonable. Getting back to the topic at hands--"

Earl Seryuu easily pulled back at my excuses.

Doesn't look like he's trying to ascertain Silver Knight Air's identity.

"We will be holding a ball to celebrate Sir Marientail's promotion tonight. It would be my pleasure if Satou-dono could participate. Of course, your subordinates are invited too."

According to Earl Seryuu, it's OK for the beastkin girls to come to the party, but I wouldn't want to expose them to the inevitable inquisitive glances.

I did check with everyone to see if they wanted to participate, but in the end, only Arisa is going to come with me.

I was planning to go back to the inn once, but the time for the ball approached while I was arguing with Earl Seryuu about whether the labyrinth should be managed by himself or not.



"Hmmm, first time coming here, but this Earl Seryuu's castle is really designed for wars unlike the Royal Castle isn't it."

I'm heading toward the ballroom with Arisa.

It seems the majority of the entrants have entered the venue, there's only the two of us in the passage besides from the busily coming and going servants.

""""Earl Pendragon-sama!""""

High-pitched shrieks resounded the moment we got into the venue.

Fair noble girls of the Earldom come to my side one after another.

It's like the entrance of a famous actor or singer.

"Earl-sama! Please tell me all about your adventures!"

"Earl-sama! I do not have a fiancée!"

"Earl-sama! My house is famous for being the most fertile in Seryuu city!"

The beauties who are encircling me make their appeal.

Fertility being an appeal point seems to be common in Shiga Kingdom.

As they're dressing more brazenly compared to the girls at the Royal Capital, lots of the beauties emphasize their cleavage, truly a sight for sore eyes.

"Master's popularity is to the point of being sickening isn't it. I should have brought Mia along--Hey, you there! Don't feel on Master as you please!"

Arisa attempted to guard me from the beautiful noble ladies, but she's way outnumbered.

--Hm?

Noticing a glance, I turn around and see a butler gazing here.

"What's up?"

The butler averted his glance like it was nothing while I was paying attention to Arisa, opened a door and announced the entrance of the territory lord and his family.

"Hueh? Why'd Zena-tan come out from over there?"

Just like Arisa said, Marientail siblings came out of the door along with the lord's family.

"Wasn't this Yukel-kun's celebration?"

As if affirming my words, Earl Seryuu praised Yukel-kun's feats and announced his promotion.

The moment they heard that, half of the beauties who were surrounding me turned their interest over there.

"In addition, Sir Marientail will take my daughter, Auna, as his wife."

The people in the hall make a stir when they hear the earl's announcement.

Yukel-kun and Miss Auna bashfully smile at each other.

Zena-san looks happy too, but her smile looks lifeless.

"It kinda feels like Zena-tan is forcing herself, doesn't it."

"You're right."

I agree to Arisa's whisper.

Zena-san's smile is usually like a blooming sunflower.

"Quiet down. I am not done yet--"

Earl Seryuu silenced the people.

"I am happy to introduce the second wife of my eldest son, Badowald!"

Huh?

Crisis Perception is alarming me for some reason.

"Sir Marientail's elder sister, Zena will be taken as Badowald's second wife."

--Seriously.

The hall was filled with even more commotion than with the announcement earlier.

"Master, did you know about this?"

"No, first time I'm hearing it."

Arisa asked me in whisper.

Zena-san didn't talk about it when I talked with her last night, and it didn't feel like she was hiding it either.

Earl Seryuu probably brought the subject to her all of a sudden today.

Zena-san is hanging her head down, I can't see her expression.

"Geez, she's really a good girl..."

Arisa sighs.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"No helping it."

Arisa scratched the back of her head and used space magic as she stood next to me.

『Zena-tan. Does Zena-tan really agree to that engagement yourself?』

Arisa's Telephone is connected to me through her connection as my Familiar.

『...Yes.』

Zena-san replied while covering her mouth.

『Not because you can't go against your lord's order?』

『...It's, not.』

Zena-san sounded stiff.

『I see, there's some kind of reason behind this--wait, no need to even guess huh.』

Arisa sighs.

『You don't want to be a hindrance in your brother's love life and career, do you.』

Zena-san remains silent.

In other words, the answer is correct.

『Since both of those would be called off if you were to refuse the engagement forced on you by your lord?』

『...Yukel and Auna-sama had always no choice but to hide their feelings to each other. And just when their wishes were about to be fulfilled--』

Hint of tears are mixed in Zena-san's voice.

Arisa glanced up at me.

Her eyes are expecting something.

I brushed Arisa's head, and took a step forward toward the ring of people that encircled Badowald-dono and Zena-san.

I step forward toward the crowd that encircle Badowald-dono and Zena-san.

『...Satou-san.』

At the other side of the crowd, Zena-san raised her head.

Her eyes moist with tears are looking at me.

"Oh, Satou-dono! Demon lord slayer-dono is going to congratulate the new member of my family--"

Earl Seryuu is all smiles, but his eyes remain sharp.

He's probably foreseen what I'm gonna do here.

A blank space has been created in front of Badowald-dono and Zena-san.

"I'm very honored to meet you. I am the eldest son of Earl Seryuu, Badowald Seryuu."

"Nice to meet you, Badowald-dono. I'm Shiga Kingdom's Tourism Minister, Earl Satou Pendragon of Muno Marquisdom."

I stop with my formal speech pattern.

I extend my hand toward Zena-san after the greeting.

"Satou, san?"

Zena-san is looking at the hands I've presented to her with eyes full of expectations.

"Sir Pendragon, what are you--"

Badowald-dono sounded perplexed.

"Zena-san."

Zena-san is reaching out to my hands, reacting to my calling.

For some reason, Yukel-kun who was slightly away from this place rushed out to position himself between me and Zena-san, instead of Badowald-dono who was standing next to Zena-san.

Sorry, but you're way too late.

"Excuse me, Zena-san."

I quickly catch Zena-san's hand and pull her to me.

Since I was about to bump into the rushing Yukel-kun, I twirl around like dancing and took a distance away from him with her in my arms.

The women in the dance hall let out a shriek, while the men made a commotion.

"W-what is the meaning--"

Earl Seryuu stopped Yukel-kun who was going to question me with his hand.

I somehow get the feelings that he was dragged in the plot, but there was never a choice to abandon Zena-san here, so I'm not going to let him complain.

"Let me hear your excuses."

Earl Seryuu quietly asked.

"I'm taking her for myself."

If Zena-san wished for the engagement with Badowald-dono herself, I would congratulate her as a friend.

But I cannot abandon her if they're looking to make use of Zena-san as Silver Knight Air, not as herself, to benefit Seryuu Earldom.

"In other words, you're going to deprive my son of his fiancée?"

Kinda feels like I could hear Earl Seryuu's inner voice.

"Exactly."

I look at his eyes and nod.

"This isn't a joke you know? Do you realize your and my positions here?"

In short, he's demanding something that exceeds Zena-san.

I stare at him with sincere eyes.

"As a neighbor, I will promise you this."

As the lord of the Dragon's Valley.

"If a being appears to threaten Seryuu Earldom, I will eliminate them regardless of what they are, once, I will also assist in the effort to restore the damage incurred."

If I didn't place a limit, it'd be annoying if I were dragged into wars with the neighboring countries and lords after all.

"From any being? Even if you're up against a greater demon--or even a demon lord itself, do you mean that?"

That must have been exactly what he wanted to hear.

Earl Seryuu grinned and laughed.

In many cases, demon lords tend to be revived in the vicinity of a labyrinth.

Demon lord disasters that had always felt like something distant and not his problems must feel really close now that there is a labyrinth smack dab in the capital of his territory.

Well, even without this promise, I'd have come to exterminate rampaging demon lords anyway.

"Even if I'm up against a demon lord. I swear by the title of Demon Lord Slayer--■■ Contract"

I took a vow by using Contract skill.

"That is still not enough. Give me two more conditions."

As one would expect from a politician.

He'd keep pushing me on even if I refused here.

"Don't make that face. It's nothing big."

Is it really?

"First, take Zena Marientail not as your mistress, but as your formal wife. I will not question her position in the hierarchy."

That's unexpected.

"The rank of Marientail house as a baron must be a bit insufficient. The second condition is for Zena to become an adopted daughter of our Seryuu Household when the time comes for you to take her hands in marriage."

I see, he's going to make us related through that huh.

Looks like he's really eager to tie relationship with me no matter what.

"Very well. I agree to those two conditions."

"Then--Contract established."

The Contract skill earlier formally activated the moment Earl Seryuu declared so.

Right at the same time, the nobles gave their applauds, and as if informed by that, the other people also congratulated me by giving handshakes.

Looks like Earl Seryuu has prepared shills among them beforehand.

Yukel-kun's expression that looked like he didn't get what was going on turned perplexed after Earl Seryuu whispered something to his ear.

On the other hand, Badowald-dono seemed like he didn't find this amusing, but he's not flustered at all.

Badowald-dono was probably a conspirator in Earl Seryuu's scheme and Yukel-kun was made to dance in it.

"Satou-san."

"Yes--"

Right when I turned around to Zena-san who whispered into my ears, I felt something warm on my lips.

--Yes?

Looks like Zena-san gave me a kiss the moment I turned around to her.

An innocent junior high school-like kiss.

The slight pain from our teeth clashing kinda feels nostalgic somehow.

『I'll overlook it this time.』

Arisa's voice that felt kinda sullen reached me through her Familiar connection.

While patting Arisa's head with my free hand, I lowered the blushing Zena-san who was done with the kissing on the floor.

I send Zena-san off to a circle of female nobles who've come to congratulate Zena-san, including Miss Iona.

Earl Seryuu approached me instead.

"--The matter this time will be spread as a side show in Yukel-kun's promotion party. I have no obligation to help other nobles in their scheme after all."

Earl Seryuu and his grins annoyed the heck out of me.

But well, you have my thanks for your considerations.

Although there's nothing to worry with Marquis Muno, Duke Oyugock and the king, there's no guarantee that other nobles won't follow the same scheme.

Arisa speaks to me when Earl Seryuu has left.

"Hey, Master, have you noticed?"

"Yeah..."

I gave an affirmative to Arisa's question.

Zena-san who's surrounded by her friends has gotten a new title.

--Satou's Fiancee.

Well, considering the situation....

I check my Log.

> [Plunder] skill acquired

> Title [Plunderer] Acquired.

> Title [Love Hunter] Acquired.

> Title [Soulmate] Acquired

I got some slightly objectionable titles and skills.

Well, maybe I'll leave the last title be on the Alternate Column for a while.

16-37. [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald (1)

Satou here. Trials take time and money, but I think willpower and stamina are what needed most in it. To say nothing of the day you're selected to be a juror...



"Pochi-chan, Tama-chan, come and visit us again okay."

"Aye aye sir~"

"Yes nanodesu."

The children are exchanging farewells in front of the Gate Inn.

"Next time, Pochi will come with Lyuryu nodesuyo. Let's all go on a stroll with Yuni together nodesu."

"Un! I can't wait!"

Pretty sure Yuni-chan hasn't realized that Lyuryu is the white dragon that came by during the divine punishment.

And by stroll, Pochi must mean flying in the sky.

"You too lizard, be well."

"Bear, call me Liza."

"Should I call you Liza-sama, considering you're a noble now?"

"No, Rat. Just call me Liza."

"We cannot possibly call noble-sama without honorifics."

"Leopard..."

Liza is talking with her old acquaintances, the beastkin slaves.

In half a month, these girls will migrate to a town where the population is mostly of beastkin at Muno Marquisdom. It's a town governed under Liza.

"Nana-shamaa"

"I'm going with Nana-shama!"

"Me too!"

"...Young organisms."

Nana looks reluctant to part ways with some unfamiliar looking children.

These children seem to be orphans who live in the same orphanage as Yuni-chan's.

Just when did she get along with them.

"Brother-in-law--no, your excellency Pendragon. Please forgive me for my discourtesy last night."

Yukel-kun lowered his head.

"Please raise your head, you have already apologized so much."

I went to visit Zena-san's house this morning, and Yukel-kun kept apologizing for his, "discourtesy at the banquet."

Since I can't even remember what he did, I really am not sure how to deal with his excessive apology.

Apparently, he thought that I was a, "casanova who was just playing around with his elder sister" from what he gathered from the people around him, he was going to ask that when he came to pick me at the Handymen yesterday.

Due to that misunderstanding, and also for the sake of his elder sister, he agreed to Zena-san getting engaged to Earl Seryuu's oldest son, Badowald-dono.

Well, in a nutshell, Yukel-kun is a siscon.

"Boy, take care of Zena-cchi, you hear me."

Miss Lilio, Zena-san's co-worker, talked to me unreservedly.

"Lilio, call his excellency, Earl Pendragon or your excellency."

"That's rite'. Though I guess inept Lilio just can't help it."

"Ruu... That's too much."

The three ladies from Zena Squad is encircling her.

Personally, I'm convinced that these girls are the source of information that gave birth to Yukel-kun's misunderstanding.

"But I'm really worried~ Zena-cchi~"

"Please don't worry about me, Lilio. I'll make sure to come back once in a while too."

Lilio clings to Zena-san, reluctant to part.

"Master, we're ready to depart anytime."

"Thank you Lulu."

We got on board the wagon.

"Zena-tan's parents and other nobles aren't coming to see us off, are they."

"Ah, I already visited them earlier."

I had talked a bit with Zena-san's mother when I visited their house this morning.

She was a calm madam and looked like her daughter.

Zena-san's father had already left this world, however I was able to see his portrait, drawn while he was alive. He was a strict-looking military man that didn't look like Yukel-kun and Zena-san, he gave off this serious air about him.

"Satou-san, this is something from mom!"

"Thank you, Martha-chan. Give my thanks to the landlady too."

"Un! Come again okay."

"Yeah, I'll make sure to."

I handed the lunchbox from Martha-chan to the girls on the wagon, and made a promise to Martha-chan after her farewell hug.

I instructed Lulu to depart the wagon while we waved our hands at the people who were seeing us off.

"Where were we going again now?"

Arisa asked a question right after we passed through Seryuu City's gate.

"The Judicial Nation Sheriffald where God Urion's main temple is located."

"Religious country?"

"Nope, it seems to be a peculiar judicial based country."

"Is the social system similar to ancient Greece, where the government is directly ruled by the people?"

"Apparently, only people who passed the bar examination have the right to cast votes."

I stated the information I had investigated beforehand.

Considering God Urion gives [Eyes of Judgement] gift to their believers, I have a feeling that the trial will be like, "capture all evildoers in the country", or "rehabilitate all criminals."

Would be nice if it's something that can be finished quickly.



"Whoa, everything's white in this country."

The moment we arrived at Judicial Nation Sheriffald, Arisa muttered so while looking around at the surroundings.

This country is located right between Saga Empire and the western countries.

The building color here being predominantly white is probably because of the building materials taken from a nearby mountain.

"This place reminds me of Weasel Empire Parish."

Sera who had come with us muttered.

This time I'm only accompanied by Arisa, Sera and Zena-san.

Princess Sistina declined to go there, saying, "I don't like the people of Judicial Nation Sheriffald."

In addition, since demi-humans are discriminated against here, Liza, Mia and Lulu aren't coming either.

Nana, Pochi, and Tama need to go to school, so they're not here.

"The atmosphere does feel similar. Like with the bland whitish attires the people wear."

Arisa pointed at the people of Judicial Nation Sheriffald who were walking on the street.

They consist of plain-looking white shirts and slacks, but maybe because the practice of ironing clothes is well known here, there's not even a wrinkle on their clothes.

And despite the fairly cold climate, few people wear thick clothing.

Not a lot of these people cracked a smile, they somehow look like Japanese in the commuter rush somehow.

"Something smells nice."

"I wonder what, bakery?"

Arisa reacted to the scent of freshly made bread from beyond the street.

Arisa's eyes wandered toward the scent and stopped at one of the alleys.

"--Stalker?"

There's a big man who's monitoring a building that seems to be a bakery.

According to AR readings, looks like he's an officer of this country. His post seems to be a commanding officer of a 100-man platoon.

I saw a feeble looking beautiful girl working at the counter as people went in and out of the bakery.

Both the girl and the 100-man platoon commander are single, maybe it's like a boyfriend who's watching over his lover working from the shadow?

"Apparently, he's an officer of this country."

"But, still, he must be a stalker right? I mean, he's breathing roughly, and I

can't think of any reason why a military officer would be interested in a bakery."

While I was having that conversation with Arisa, men who seemed to be his subordinates came and drag him along with them.

Well, leaving that aside--.

"Zena-san, what's the matter?"

"N-no! I-It's nothing!"

When I called Zena-san who had been silent since awhile ago, she straightened her back in fluster.

Her eyes feel like they're turning round and round.

"T-that! What is that I wonder!"

Zena-san pointed at a nearby park after she looked around at the surroundings.

People are gathering at a wisteria trellis in the center of the park.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"I wonder if it's some kind of event?"

I try to listen carefully.

『The defendant concealed the fact that he was a beastkin, and lazed around during his works all the while deceiving his employer about that fact. This is an unjustified act of stealing wages.』

It seems to be some kind of trial.

I asked Zena-san to use 『Whisper Wind』 magic to let everyone observe the situation.

『T-that's wrong! I was told by my employer to hide my face!』

『Any objection to what the defendant said?』

『Naw, I never did that. This guy had been hiding his face rite' from the start, ya know?』

『Is there anyone who can attest to that?』

『My store's employees and the store regulars can.』

I've got the impressions that the beastkin has been set up by his employer somehow.

『False testimony in a Trial before God is a crime. As a judge who watches over the scale, I declare the defendant crime be raised by one class.』

He was the judge, I thought he was a prosecutor.

Looks like the format of trials in this world differs from my former world.

『P-please wait! I'm not lying!』

『Then do you know anyone who can attest to your testimony?』

『...No.』

The male judge put a stone onto one side of a huge balance scale beside him.

『Well then, as a penalty for the crime of sloth and perjury, you have to return 80% of your wages back to your employer. And for the Trial before God's--』

『P-please wait!』

『What is it? Interrupting the judge's decree, have you no shame?』

『I've been working harder than anyone! Crime of sloth can't be right!』

『Do you know anyone who can attest to that?』

『Other folks who worked with me should know it.』

『Can anyone attest to his labor?』

The judge looked back at the employer and men who seemed to be other employees, but no one did anything drastic besides some who awkwardly averted their gazes.

Well, looking at their behaviors, it all but proves the beastkin's innocence.

『It doesn't seem like anyone can attest for you.』

The judge then put another stone, and the scale tilted toward the employer.

『N-no way! I worked the hardest! Those guys lazed around while they made me do their job! I worked for real!』

『It appears that the defendant has a habit of lying.』

『I-I'm not lying!』

Really, what a sickening one-sided trial.

"This is all nothing but a kangaroo court. Master, aren't there magic to go back in time and show the past or something?"

"Magic that can manipulate time doesn't exist, you know."

It'd be easy to prove for him if there were.

"I wonder why they couldn't interrogate him with a Truth Discerner?"

Sera muttered so.

Oh right. I forgot because this looked like a trial, but this world had Truth Discerners who could see through lies in an interrogation.

Looking around at the Map, there's no Truth Discerner at this place.

They seem to be serving under the country, a great majority of them is inside a building called Judicial Bureau, while the several remaining ones are in the Main Temple.

Lots of them seem overworked and with Stamina gauge nearing zero, I'm guessing that they can't afford to send them to trivial trials.

『I shall pass your judgment! The defendant shall reimburse his employer with 200 emir, and pay the same amount to the court for the crime of perjury. In case you cannot pay right here and now, you will be detained as a debt slave.』

『M-my wage wasn't that much! My entire pay is 3 emir!』

The currency of this country, emir is silver coin, thus even converted to Shiga Kingdom's, that's still 40 gold coins.

If you just think about it, that's an abnormal amount for a common worker's wages.

"Sa-Satou-san..."

"Could you do something about it?"

"Leave it to me."

I nod to Zena-san and Sera-san, I step forward before these guys.

"Foreigner, you'd do well not to trespass upon a Trial before God."

"Please excuse me. I am Earl Pendragon of Shiga Kingdom."

I silenced the unfair judge with the brand power of a large kingdom and my peerage.

"Allow me to pay the penalty for that beastkin."

"You will?"

"Yes."

"Are you acquainted with this beastkin?"

"What good is in telling you that?"

I try to behave as haughtily as I could.

These types of people tend to be weak with social ranks after all.

『Master, you're not gonna kick them hard in the guts?』

Arisa talked to me through space magic [Telephone].

『Don't worry, I'm still laying the groundwork, hold on a bit okay.』

I wait for the judge's reply after responding to Arisa.

"V-very well."

Since I got his agreement, I paid for the beastkin's penalty.

Of course, the beastkin looks really anxious.

Please endure it for a bit, I'll explain to you later.

I talk to the employer who's counting silver coins while chuckling to himself.

Might as well use this chance to use two mind magic to loosen his wariness.

"The employer over there. Was this beastkin good at his works?"

"Naw, he was useless, always skipped out on works."

He was so engrossed he forgot to use polite speech against a noble.

"Has he been working under you long?"

"Since half a year ago--you have a problem?"

"Nah, it just piqued my interest a bit."

Now that I've got the employer's words, I talk to an employee who seems like a senior.

These employees seem to have been promised shares by the employer, they're focusing on the silver coins he's counting.

"I presume you've been working at his store for a long time."

"Yeah, been there for 10 years."

"Hee, you must be very skilled. Your wages must be quite high too."

"There's no way that stingy manager woulda pay much."

"Was it 20 emir a month?"

"The heck, yer' one digit off. At most I got 6 emir a month--"

The senior employee who got ahead of himself noticed his verbal slip.

"No, wai--"

"Judge!"

"Objection!"

I called the judge before the senior employee could correct himself.

For some reason, Arisa shouted while striking a pose from a famous trial and tribulation game.

She must have been waiting for this timing, no doubt about it.

"What is it, Earl-sama."

"This guy just confessed to his crime. He's caught red-handed in a fraud."

"--Fraud? Don't be foolish."

"Who do you think you are making fools of earl-sama!"

Arisa shouted at the stunned judge.

I contested to the shrinking judge, that if a diligent long serving worker only got paid 6 emir a month, there is no way that a lazy beastkin who had only worked for half a year got more than six times that amount at 40 emir.

As it was right after a careless remark by him, the judge readily accepted my

point.

"Since he tried to fraud Earl-sama, he'd be punished into becoming a crime slave, wouldn't he?"

"Y-yeah..."

"P-please wait, judge!"

Toward the still vainly struggling employer, I whispered, "if you still have a problem, would you like to bring this case to the Truth Discerner at the capital?"

Additionally, it appears that the other employees have to pay for penalty for the crime of perjury, but since they're only reaping what they sow, I'm not going to defend them.

"N-noble-sama, thank you very much."

"Don't mind it, it was just a whim of mine."

I hand over the money, that the judge gave me, to the beastkin.

This is different from the money I paid out earlier.

I'm told that 20% of the lawsuit sum had to be deposited before the trial, and I got 40 emir out of that deposit as a consolation.

I handed over all of it to him.

It's higher than what he originally would have got, but I think the amount is just right to compensate for the trouble.

We parted ways with the ape beastkin who was bowing repeatedly, and got back to our city tour.



"--Eww."

"This was a local specialty wasn't it."

"But it does taste better than Gabo fruit."

We entered the first diner we saw because we were starving, but the cuisine left a lot to be desired.

Zena-san was the only one who continued to eat even while smiling wryly, Arisa and Sera quickly threw in the towel.

"Even forgetting the dry texture, the sour aftertaste was just too much."

"This seems to be called Sheriffa Potato."

I conveyed the info from AR reading to the wincing Arisa.

According to the Map, there's lots of gallette-like cuisines made from Sheriffa Potato and flour made from it.

"Hello, I'm here for your delivery."

A familiar looking beautiful girl entered the door.

"Oh my? This aroma is--"

"Bread."

I remember this aroma.

It's the bakery girl whom Arisa claimed to have a stalker.

"Oh you're late, I was waiting for you."

"I'm sorry, landlady-san."

"Is anything wrong? You're not looking well, you know."

"It's nothing. I just couldn't sleep well lately..."

The feeble-looking girl nodded at the worried landlady and went toward her next stop.

I ended up imagining things thanks to Arisa and her stalker stuff.

"Customers, we've got some freshly baked bread here, want some?"

"We do, we do!"

Arisa swiftly jumped on the landlady's offer.

It might not be as good as Lulu-made bread, but it was so good, Sheriffa

Potato dish had nothing against it.

I took this chance to ask for the landlady's permission and got some jam and butter out for the bread.

"Still, this country sure loves its trials."

Arisa grumbled while relishing on the bread.

Most of the parks we happened to see on our way here had ongoing trials under the blue sky.

"But I'm glad that they were all ordinary trials, besides that one time."

Zena-san muttered so while drinking the palate cleanser tea.

"What's this, are you guys here to attend the Trial of Scale at the capital's Judicial Bureau too?"

The landlady who seemed like she had nothing to do call out to us.

"-Trial of Scale?"

Come to think of it, the tour guidebook did mention that [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald had a peculiar trial.

"Yeap. It's a trial that makes use of God Urion's sacred treasure 『Golden Scale』 Ulrirab."

I see, the golden series this time is a scale huh.

"Libra, which means it's the old man... But the younger version and the genderbent version might be available too right now."

Arisa's inner voice leaked out in low voice.

I know the reference, but control yourself a bit.

"How does it work?"

"It can see through sins that a Truth Discener's 『Fathom』 and the gift 『Eye of Judgment』 can't recognize."

The landlady folded her arms like she was done with the explanation.

"That sounds amazing."

I made some random agreeable response.

I don't really get it but it must be some kind of complicated trial when [Fathom] can't be used to tell lies, and [Eye of Judgment] can't distinguish wrongdoings.

I should ask the details when we visit Urion Main Temple.

"Yea, it really is! But that's also exactly why the waiting time is so long..."

According to the landlady, even nobles have to wait for three months, while commoners three years.

"So if you want to have a trial quickly, you should go to the capital Judicial Bureau and ask Saga Empire hero-sama to be the judge. Apparently, that Hero Seigi-sama also has the power to distinguish evils, you see."

The successor of Hero Meiko who almost became a cripple at the Weasel Empire huh....

"Aren't you, like, getting a bad feeling about this?"

Arisa, stop setting up that kind of flags please.

16-38. [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald (2)

Satou here. There's a lot of games and dramas with trial and tribulation as their theme, but it sure is easy to lose track of the foreshadowing and the characters, you end up not feeling the catharsis at the final reversal scene, isn't it.



『--O God. Just God we all revere.』

We're performing the Conveyance Ceremony while being shined on by the indigo blue light at the Urion Main Temple.

The ritual's procedures are the same as with all the main temples so far.

The Miko-san this time is a woman in her forties who has an aura like a morning in severe winter.

『Ye who challenge the trial with justice in heart.』

Voice of a strict sounding man echoed in my mind.

This seems to be God Urion's voice.

『Expose wrongdoings, and pass down righteous judgment』

A golden scale adorned with plain-looking ornaments flashed in my mind.

This must be the Divine Treasure of God Urion I heard at the diner yesterday, the 『Golden Scale』 Urlirab.

『Do so, and I will grant you my mark.』

--Oh?

The trial this time didn't have, "Once people revere my name far and wide"

stuff.

『Don't I need to make the people revere you?』

『Right the injustice, you who challenge the trial.』

I got a reply for once, but it still didn't feel like we had an actual conversation.

Unfortunately, there was no more reply or instruction as the god cut off the connection.

He was the least problematic god compared to the last two in this regard, but it really does feel like they're not good at playing catch with words.



"Thank you for your hard work, Satou-san."

I wipe my sweat with the towel Zena-san handed me.

"And so, what was the god's order like?"

"Arisa, please pick your words a bit..."

"Hoe? What was the oracle from the God like?"

Apparently, Sera still wasn't pleased with Arisa's revision, she looked like she was getting a headache.

"『Expose wrongdoings, Pass down righteous judgment』 and 『Right the injustice』 I think?"

"Hee, doesn't seem like it needs a publicity stunt this time."

Well, since it seems like gods need people's faith and prayers anyway, I plan to make it happen even it's low on the list.

"So, any idea about the wrongdoings and injustice parts?"

"I'm not a god you know, hard to grasp everything in a country I just arrived at."

I replied to Arisa while smiling wryly.

"Perhaps it's something like the trial earlier?"

"I don't think such a small court trial like that could be considered a trial from god."

Zena-san and Sera exchanged words.

"For the time being, I'm going to change into Kuro and get in touch with the advance unit of Echigoya Firm."

There's no branch office of Echigoya Firm in this country, thus I had dispatched some personnels from the firm here right after I was tasked with the God's Trials.

I left the personnel selection to the manager, but considering they were handpicked by such a capable woman, I'm sure they have acquired information needed.

"You're postponing the stuff with Saga Empire hero?"

Arisa's question made me remember.

Oh right, Saga Empire hero Seigi was in this country.

"Don't think there's any need to get involved with him in particular."

I expect the hero to be just befitting of a hero.

I've got a feeling that we'd get ourselves entangled in some unnecessary trouble if we carelessly approach the guy.

We're set to leave Urion Main Temple while conversing as such.

"--Oh my? Are they doing something at the sanctuary?"

Arisa keenly found the place I tried to ignore.

I don't want to get close to there since Hero Seigi is currently present over there.

"Let's have a closer look!"

Arisa ran toward the sanctuary before I could stop her.

"Is there some kind of event taking place?"

"It might be a kind of ritual considering it's a sanctuary."

Sera pulled my hand as I walked next to Zena-san toward the sanctuary.

Well, I might find the villain that would work to be the target in this trial, might as well take a peek.



"There's so many people here."

We opened the door and was greeted with hot air and a rustling crowd.

They're holding some kind of trial inside the sanctuary it seems.

"That must be the divine treasure of God Urion, 『Golden Scale』 Urlirab."

Sera pointed at a golden colored scale beyond the crowd.

"I wonder what kind of trial is it? Isn't that blue armor standing in front of the judge a hero?"

I affirmed Arisa's question.

"Let's get a bit closer."

Arisa pushed herself into the crowd.

This little girl is so full of curiosity as always.

"We should go too."

I turned around to ask for Zena-san and Sera's opinion, and approved of what their gazes told me.

"--I'm innocent!"

While we were proceeding in the crowd, Attentive Ears skill picked up the content of the trial beyond the rustling crowd.

"I was just watching over her from a distance!"

"You didn't even have her permission!"

The blue armored hero Seigi is a boy with a small build of around middle schooler age.

From what can be seen, he looks like the type that likes to sweat out his youth at athletic clubs.

On the other hand, the muscular man appealing for his innocence looks somewhat similar.

"Doesn't he look like the person who was standing in front of the bakery yesterday?"

"Really?"

Sera didn't seem like she remember, but Zena-san's words jogged my memory.

He's the 100-man platoon commander who was acting like a stalker in front of the bakery.

"But the woman on the opposite side does look kind of familiar."

Sera looks at the girl behind Hero Seigi.

It was the girl who delivered bread to the diner we were at.

Come to think of it, she had an anxious look on her face or something.

"Like I said, you're a stalker!"

Hero Seigi shouted out loud.

The trial proceeded on while we were talking it seems.

"Stalk 'er? Stop saying unintelligible crap you!"

The Golden Scale tilted a bit toward the 100-man platoon commander when

he shouted.

As it got translated correctly, the term stalker must exist in this world, but it seems he doesn't understand what it means.

"You don't even know stalker, you muscle for brain!"

"Are you mockin' me! Even if you're a hero, yer' attitudes ain't acceptable with those who protect the people of Judicial Nation Sheriffald!"

The Golden Scale tilted further when the commander chided the hero's insult.

I don't really get the mechanism, but apparently, the scale while tilt depending on the back and forth arguments during the trial.

"...Stalker huh."

Arisa muttered in a low voice.

『Stalkers must die, no mercy.』

Since she's connected to me as a familiar, her inner voice reached me.

Looks like she has some kind of personal grudges with stalkers.

"But I shouldn't jump to conclusions. First, gotta get better understandings--"

Arisa shakes her head left and right.

"Hey hey, mind if you tell me what happened?"

Arisa began to talk in a low voice.

At the end of her line of sight, the bakery girl is looking around restlessly.

Looks like she's initiated a conversation through space magic.

"I was just watching over her from afar and persuaded away vulgar men who tried to flirt with her."

『No, he must be lying about persuading them. Our regulars, were hurt.』

I could hear the bakery girl's voice through Arisa.

"I love her! I'm sure she must not think bad of me too."

『Is that true?』

『W-wrong! That man is just a regular customer.』

『Like, a customer you just don't know how to deal with?』

『Un.』

I can see what's happening now.

The man who's a poor talker must have misunderstood the girl's business smile and went crazy with his desire to monopolize her.

Even so--.

"Why're they doing Trial before God for such a small case like this?"

"Ain't that cause hero-sama is on the plaintiff's side?"

Attentive Ears skill picked up nearby audience's conversation.

Looks like there are people with the same doubt as mine.

Saga Empire is very close by to this country after all, their heroes' reputation must be bigger than I assumed here.

"That's just your selfish assumption!"

"You might be right! Even so, I only wanted to protect her smile."

""""COMMANDER!""""

The scale is gradually tilting toward the commander while hero Seigi is running around in circle.

I'm guessing that the trial will be decided when the scale is fully tilted to one side.

This trial would end in hero's defeat in another 1-2 round if this kept up.

"Ah, geez! I can't stand this anymore!"

Arisa who got informed of the situation through space magic charged into the courtroom while shouting.

I could have caught her at a moment notice, but if the fired-up Arisa did a short-range warp here, she would stand out too much, so I let her slip.

"--Objection!"

Arisa stood next to hero Seigi and shouted out loud.

"Who goes there! You fool who dared to intrude upon a Trial before God, fear the God!"

"I'm Arisa Tachibana, an advocate!"

Arisa grandly shouted back at the judge.

"Since this quack hero doesn't seem to be good with words, I'm here to act in his stead."

"Wha, quack--"

Hero Seigi who was going to rebut choked on his words when he saw Arisa.

He's beet red up to his ears, is he not accustomed to being around girls or something.

Arisa used the chance to talk to the bakery girl while hero Seigi was mumbling incoherently.

"I have gotten the plaintiff's approval. We will be changing advocate."

The trial continued once the presiding judge confirmed the bakery girl's nodding approval.

"I would like to confirm four things! Answer me with 『Yes』 or 『No』."

Arisa look up confidently at the 100-man platoon commander.

"First question, you said you were watching over the bakery. Was that a part of your official duty?"

"It's not! It's out of good will."

"Just answer me with 『Yes』 or 『No』. Which one?"

"It's, no."

The commander replied with a dissatisfied look.

"Second question, have you asked for the permission from the girl in question or from the bakery?"

"Good deeds must be done indiscreetl--"

"Your answer with 『Yes』 or 『No』?"

"Gununu...."

"Which one?"

"It's, no."

I kinda get what Arisa is trying to do here.

She's trying to exclude all the commander's superfluous excuses, pick up only the fact and sort out the hearers mind.

"Third question, have you ever ordered male customers of the bakery to not come back there?"

"Vulgar morons--"

"『Yes』 or 『No』."

The commander keeps silent.

The anger leaking out of him is making the bakery girl behind Arisa turn pale.

"What's wrong? You don't want to answer?"

"It's, yes."

Without caring for the glares full of murderous intent from the commander, Arisa continued on.

Arisa has space magic [Reflect Protection] with her after all, from the veteran Arisa's point of view, this commander probably looks like nothing more than a paper tiger.

"Next and last question, have you ever used violence on the people you ordered not to come?"

"I would never do that! It's, no."

The commander looks down on Arisa with a triumphant face.

"He's lying! My Unique Skill granted by Parion-sama 『Justice Mind Eye (There is Only One Truth)』 informed me that it was a lie!"

The hero shouted.

The presiding judge turns back toward the Truth Discerners behind him.

Apparently those Truth Discerners are bearers of [Eyes of Conviction] gift and [Fathom] skill.

"The defendant has not told a lie."

"The hero has not given a false testimony"

I see, the pattern where both are correct huh.

"Then, let me change the last question."

Arisa appeared to have anticipated this patter as she continued her inquiry without a hint of unrest.

My eyes met with Arisa suddenly.

"No, I know a better method. Master, come here for a bit."

Arisa beckoned me.

『Could you woo bread girl-chan for a bit, please.』

『You're asking me to be a sacrificial lamb?』

『You betcha.』

I step toward the bakery girl as requested by Arisa.

『Try to do it where the judge and defendant could see, thankies』

『Got it』

"Hey you're one cutie pie. How about it, fancy cruising the sky on an airship together with me after this stuff is over?"

I embrace the bakery girl's waist, and whisper to her with her hair in my other hand.

"You bastard! The hell you think you're doing to Wekwi!"

The 100-man platoon commander jumped and rushed out at once, grabbed me by neck and glared like he was going to kill me.

Apparently he also has [Coercion] skill active, though I'm not sure if it's a conscious decision or not.

It won't surprise me if commoners run away faced against this kind of menacing attitudes.

In fact, the presiding judge behind me had fallen into [Panic] state for a short while.

"Thank you Master. That should be good enough as a demonstration."

With the help of Escape and Ninjutsu skill, I slipped out of the commander's hand and evacuated the center of the courtroom.

Of course, I did so after I apologized to the bakery girl for making her go through embarrassing and scary moments.

"Let me ask again. Were you exerting violence just now?"

"D'ya have holes for eyes! Did it look like violence to you?!"

"Answer my question."

"I did not. No."

Arisa seems to be satisfied with that answer, she turns around toward the judge.

"In other words, according to the defendant, what he did just now was 『not exerting violence』."

The judge nods with a serious look.

The atmosphere in the courtroom is tilting toward Arisa due to the chain of events just now.

Even the scale whose tilting slightly changed knows that.

This time she's asking the bakery girl's side.

"Hey, have you ever asked for help whenever a customer tried to flirt with you?"

"N-no. It happens often when I'm running the counter so..."

"Well, figured as much."

Arisa continues further.

"While not in his official duty as a national soldier, not on the request of the bakery owner or the girl, this guy was monitoring the bakery with personal motives, and even though she didn't ask for help, he coerced only those who 『tried to flirt with the bakery girl』 with terrible attitudes like he demonstrated

earlier--are all this normal in this country?"

Arisa paused a bit to wait for the audience to chew through her words, and then she spoke of that query.

The scale tilts toward Arisa.

"That guy punched me!"

"Me too!"

"He only pushed me, but then he threatened me that there is no next time!"

It seems like there were people who had experience of getting threatened by the commander among the crowd.

They were probably too scared to present their testimony until now.

"My my? Didn't you say you never exert violence?"

"T-that's not violence. It's just retribution!"

"Then let me rephrase my question. Did you get 『physical』 with the people you ordered not to come back?"

The 100-man platoon commander isn't answering.

But it's obvious from his expression.

CLANK, with that sound, the scale completely tilted toward Arisa.

"The scale has shown us! I will hereby pass judgment!"

The judge who had turned into air shouted out loud.

Ultimately, the commander is sentenced to reimburse the customers he injured and is prohibited to follow around the bakery girl per recommended sentence.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Thank you, Arisa-chan."

Hero Seigi spoke to Arisa.

"I don't really need your thanks. I was just trying to save this bread girl-- Wekwi-san from the torment of a stalker."

Hero Seigi muttered, "She's so modest", as if Arisa's cold attitudes never transpired.

"You are exactly the one who stands above nobility, fit to be my attendant! Arisa-chan! Come join my hero party!"

Hero Seigi tried to solicit Arisa into his party.

Is it just my imagination or are there heart marks on his pupils.

"Ew no. I don't wanna be your attendant."

"Ok then! I'm a man myself. Be my, lover--no, my wife!"

Uwaa, he went straight to proposing right after getting rejected.

"I am faithful to only one. I don't need no isekai cheat harem! I'll love only you, s-so be my wife!"

With 90's bowing style, he presented his hand straight to Arisa.

It looks like proposals I saw in late-night shows during my childhood.

『Oh noo, Arisa-chan is getting popular~?』

Arisa took a glance here.

『What to do Master, look away for a sec and Arisa-chan might just get whisked away you know~?』

Her inner voice directly transmitted to me.

I gaze at Arisa with Poker Face (expressionless) skill on.

『H-huh? No response? A-are you saying Arisa-chan isn't needed? Like disposing bad inventory? T-that can't be, right? Hey? Master, please say

somethiiiiiiing』

It's getting amusing, but leaving this alone any further would make things later on a pain, so I step forward and stop in front of Arisa and Hero Seigi.

"Nice to meet you, Hero Seigi-dono. I'm Earl Satou Pendragon. Arisa is an important companion of mine. Sorry, but I'm not gonna yield even if I'm up against a hero of Saga Empire."

While being careful not to use polite speech, I cover Arisa from Hero Seigi's line of sight.

『Yaan, oh you master, employing such a high level technique like tease play. Geez, you m-e-a-n-i-e.』

Arisa is poking her finger on my back.

Since it's distracting, I cut off the thought connection to Arisa who's started to go into overdrive.

"I am more befitting of Arisa-chan than you!"

His attendant stops the shouting Hero Seigi in a fluster.

"Please wait, Seigi-sama. This person is dangerous."

"What is? Just cause he's a noble? He's an earl of a minor country, so what! I'm hero! I'm great!"

The hero talked back like a spoiled kid to the beautiful woman who whispered into his ears, seemingly his attendant.

--What is he, a child.

If he's really a middle schooler, he should act a bit more mature than this, maybe because the other party is his subordinate?

"Incorrect, he's of Shiga Kingdom--a great power rivaling Saga Empire--"

"What great power! It can't even kill demon lords without me, can it? Even a country shouldn't be allowed to stop heroes from recruiting personnels--"

"Have you forgotten. He's
Pendragon."

"And what about it! You know I'm not good with history and memorization. There's no way I can memorize names of nobles in another world!"

The female attendant looked like she got a headache from hero Seigi's remark.

"I will repeat myself. He is Pendragon. Pendragon the Demon Lord Slayer."

"D-demon lord slayer? The one who beat one of the two demon lords that appeared in a fight along with the previous generation hero?"

"Correct.

That

Pendragon."

I'm not fond of that introduction, it's like I'm some kind of dangerous character.

"S-so what if he's Pendragon! It's already decided Arisa-chan better go with me!"

"Sorry, pass. I made a promise to Master I would marry him, so no can do~"

Arisa hugs my arm and rubs her face on it like a cat.

Rather than her trying to provoke Hero Seigi, it feels more like she's giving in to her lust.

"L-let's have a match!"

--Haa?

I ended up taking a long hard look at the shouting hero Seigi.

"I am more befitting of Arisa-chan! So if I win the match, hand over Arisa-chan!"

Treating people like commodity.

"Does the hero like getting thoroughly beaten to a pulp? Don't tell me, a masochist?"

Arisa roused hero Seigi further.

"Seigi-sama, Demon Lord Slayer-dono is rumored to be of equal level to the

previous generation hero Hayato-sama. A direct confrontation is honestly too dangerous for the present Seigi-sama."

The female attendant whispered calmly.

"N-no! It's not a fight!"

Hero Seigi shouted out at the attendant and Arisa.

After mumbling for awhile while looking down, hero Seigi raised his face.

Looking like he's hit upon a good idea.

"We're at Judicial Nation Sheriffald here!"

Yep.

"So we're gonna have a roundup match!"

Hou?

"The one who managed to annihilate the heinous crime syndicate that gnaws

at this country, Dujii, is the winner!"

"Hee, heinous huh..."

--That might be just the right target for the trial.

Apparently it was a bad idea to even ponder here.

"But, I have no intention--"

--Hero Seigi had disappeared before I could finish talking.

Man, he sure acts unnecessarily fast.

"It should be fine right. I mean, there's no one better at finding people than Master, is there?"

Arisa sent an awkward wink as she said that.

Well, I guess so.

I open the Map and look for crime syndicate Dujii.

And the result is--

"n/a?"

16-39. [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald (3)

Rumors about plausible-sounding underworld of society and illegal websites circulating among people might have the same appeals as a certain urban legend. The thing that piqued curiosity isn't whether it exist or not, but that it really might exist.



"Tried inputting Doujii or Dudii?"

"Got no hit on either."

I've searched those before Arisa suggested.

From the results of my search on criminal background, just like in other towns, there's a lot of criminals lurking around.

However, there's no Crime Syndicate Dujii to be found anywhere.

"Wonder if it's its street name?"

"Might be."

Map Search would have found it even if it were concealed, but things get tricky if the case here is where the real organization name and the well-known name differs.

"If Master is thinking of using some special searching method, maybe Sera and I'd better go back to base?"

Arisa whispered in my ear.

She's probably being considerate since both of them may have god's back doors on them.

"Nah, there's no need for that."

I don't think we'll get to the point of needing to use cheat skills this time.

Besides, I've got no response from the equipment to trace back the back door the two are wearing.

Looks like gods don't have the time to frequently peek at this world either.

As for these backdoor re-tracer, the mechanism works by indirectly measuring Divinity from the change in Miasma and Magic Power.

The tool doesn't react to my [Unit Arrangement] and Sera's holy magic, but I've confirmed that it did react to Divinity back when I received the [God's Trial] earlier, so it should work properly.

"I'll be heading to Echigoya Firm to collect information, everyone, could you do the same at the inn and other local stores?"

The girls agreed to my suggestion.

I changed into Kuro in a back alley and went to the inn where the advance party of Echigoya Firm is staying.

"Kuro-sama!"

The advance party was a noble girl working directly under Echigoya Firm's manager, Elterina.

She can use summoning magic, hence she's got a variety of ways to secretly gather info and get in touch with someone.

I immediately got down to business.

"--Crime Syndicate Dujii? Oh that's a famous name."

Apparently their operations extend to many things like distilling liquor, to smuggling salt and stuff.

"I've tried using my summon rats to look for them, but--"

Apparently they couldn't even find a single member, let alone their base.

"Rumors going around that their headquarters is at the neighboring corrupt city Dodobu, but merchants coming from that city denied the rumors, you see~"

Corrupt City is the alias, officially it's known as Commercial City Dodobu.

It's one of city states, and a place where you can procure grey zone commodity and get some services.

"I see, then I should pay a visit to Dodobu City."

After showing my appreciations to the noble girl, I asked her to continue gathering more info about Crime Syndicate Dujii.

『Apparently, Crime Syndicate Dujii's hq is at the Commercial City Dodobu, I'll be going there for a bit.』

『I gotcha--but don't think of going to some lewd onee-san's store just because you're heading alone to the Corrupt City Dodobu, okay.』

Looks like Arisa and the girls knew about Dodobu City from their own network of information.

『Yeah, of course.』

I replied instantly while making sure that my voice wasn't shaking from the guilty consciences with the help of Poker Face skill.

No choice.

Let's postpone the visit to the pretty onee-san establishment for later.



--I'm back."

"Welcome home, Satou-san."

"That was quick."

After returning back to the inn from Corrupt City Dodobu with Unit Arrangement, I met up with Arisa and the others by relying on my Map.

"In vain?"

"Yea, both ordinary people and criminals know the name Crime Syndicate Dujii itself, but I couldn't find anyone who knows how to get in contact with them at all."

Since I couldn't find them with Map Search, I marched into the headquarters of a largish Crime Guild and made use of [Interrogation] and [Negotiation] skills, but the results were nil.

"I see, we don't have new info either."

Arisa said so with a gloomy face.

Right then, sounds of building collapsing and noises could be heard from deep inside a back alley.

"UWAAAAAAAAAAAAAA"

"RUUUUUUUUUUUUUUN"

"HERO'S COMING FOR UUUUUUUUUUUUS"

Afterward, ruffian looking men rushed out of the alley while screaming.

"Satou-san, stand back."

Zena-san steps forward with a Wind Crystal furnished wand in hand.

However, she probably won't get her turn.

Bandages-like things stretching out from behind the men pulled down and bound those men one after another.

『Don't think you can run away from [Hero's Attendant] Jema-sama's Flexible Bandage--wait, Demon Lord Slayer?』

A bunny eared beauty is looking at me.

Unfortunately, she's not wearing a bunny suit, just ordinary leather armor instead.

The gauntlets furnished with small shields equipped on both her arms must be the magic tools to control the bandages that bound the men.

『Aren't you going to catch bad people too? Seigi-sama would catch 'em all if you play around.』

The bunny eared beauty talks in Saga Empire Language.

I suppose she only knows how to speak her native language without a translation ring.

『Are these guys members of Crime Syndicate Dujii?』

『Who knows? I dunno.』

Well, they're not.

『Jema, you got them too huh--A-Arisa-san!』

Seigi came out of the back alley.

Looks like he's been working hard, his armor and mantle are dirty.

The hero brushed off the dirt from his mantle and armor and then, with a flushed face, he trotted and stopped in front of Arisa.

"H-how have you been? Faring? We have crushed six crime syndicates already, and caught more than 100 criminals ourselves."

Hero Seigi is looking at Arisa with a face hoping for her praises.

"Hee, amazing. How'd you do it? With human-wave tactics using Sage Empire soldiers?"

"No no not that, I found them with one of the three Unique Skills I got from

Parion-sama, 『Evil Search (Where's the Bad People)』."

"--Seigi-sama!"

A woman wearing a civil official attire rushed from behind him and blocked his mouth in panic.

"Didn't I just tell you not to reveal your Unique Skills after that trial!"

"I-I know that! Your eyes, you don't have to get so mad!"

Hero Seigi protested at the attendant like a child at his rebellious phase.

Come to think of it, he also announced his unique skill 『Justice Mind's Eye (There is Only One Truth)』 during the trial.

Judging from what he said, looks like he still has one last Unique Skill left.

Considering the other two Unique Skills are Search and Examination types, I guess the last one is an Enforcement type?

They're pretty useful if you're going to work as a policeman or a detective, but I can't help but wonder if that's alright for a hero expected to slay demon lords.

"Seigi, is there a top member among these people Jema caught?"

"Wait a minute--"

Asked by the civil official attendant, Hero Seigi glared at the bandaged men for several seconds.

I think it's the initial [Appraise] skill given to Heroes by the god, but he sure takes time to perform it.

"--No. Looks like it was only the bald guy knocked out at that room over there, and the beard guy who tried to escape until the end."

"Thank you very much--please call Saga Empire soldiers to bring those two to our base Moryu and interrogate them."

After telling that to hero Seigi, the official turns around toward the bunny eared attendant and instructs her.

『Jema, hand over those bunch to this country's soldiers.』

Meanwhile, Hero Seigi was talking to Arisa, "Did you know that you're prohibited from drinking liquor in this country, that's why you don't see drunkards around."

Wait, this country has prohibition law?

Come to think of it, I don't think there was a bar at that diner too.

I displayed the Tourism Ministry document on the AR display.

The document states, [Local Product: Nothing in particular], [Choice Liquor: None].

Skimming through, the fact that it's [None] instead of [Nothing in particular] must mean it really is prohibited.

Would have liked if it was written clearly on a footnote instead of this confusing text.

Well, since this is a country where Shiga Kingdom absolutely has no diplomatic relations with, forget embassy, there's not even any spy situated here, I guess it's only natural.

"Seigi, can you still go on?"

"Yea, no problem. I can still use 『Evil Search (Where's the Bad People)』 a few more times."

The official attendant made a sour look to hear hero Seigi who completely didn't get what she just admonished him earlier.

Looks like she's got quite the work cut out for her.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"What should we do? Master?"

Maybe it was due to the fact that Hero Seigi's skills has a surprisingly good compatibility with criminal search, Arisa's voice was mixed with fluster.

"Satou-san, should we split up and search too?"

"Let me help the search with wind magic! The miasma around criminals' bases of operations is usually quite thick, I could narrow them down with advanced level wind magic."

"I will lend a hand too. As it is possible to distinguish criminals with holy magic, 『Evil Detection』."

Sera and Zena-san made an appeal to help.

The roundup would probably not fall behind Hero Seigi's party with these two's magic.

Well, if we're simply looking for criminals, searching with my Map is faster and the correct choice.

However, it couldn't find the Crime Syndicate Dujii hero Seigi mentioned.

Might be a good idea to continue arresting criminals while interrogating them.

『Expose wrongdoings, pass down righteous judgement』

『Right the injustice, you who challenge the trial』

Orders from God Urion flashed on my mind.

"...Expose wrongdoings? Right the injustice...?"

Something bothered me somehow, so I uttered them.

"Aren't those God Urion's order?"

I affirmed Arisa's question.

"Something is not right..."

Sera muttered.

Looks like she caught on something like me.

Together with Arisa, she spaced out with furrowed brows.

"--Is it?"

Zena-san tilted her head.

Unfortunately, I can't articulate it enough to answer Zena-san.

"Even at Seryuu City, we often expose injustice done by the territorial army and civil officials and punish them properly, you know?"

The moment Zena-san said that, Arisa and Sera suddenly raised their faces.

"Ah!"

"I got it!"

Arisa and Sera shouted out at the same time.

"Expose!"

"It's the expose part!"

Then, as if that explains everything, the two look at me with cheerful faces.

"Umm? What do you mean?"

Zena-san asked the two before I could.

"It's normal for criminals to do wrongdoings right?"

"You won't say 'right the injustice' for criminals. Normally it'd be 『Judge the criminals』 wouldn't it?"

I see, I get what the two are trying to say.

"You mean the people who are committing those crimes aren't part of a crime syndicates?"

I confirmed what the two wanted to say.

In other words, the ones carrying out wrongdoings are people that belong to the authority and judicial organ huh.

Even though I think exposing wrongdoings are also the correct words to use on villains, that's probably what the two mean.

"At the very least."

"That should be what God Urion meant by expose."

Arisa and Sera asserted.

"Perhaps, Crime Syndicate Dujii itself never actually exists."

"Is it like a cover used by the people belonging to the authority and the judicial organ for when they're doing something unlawful?"

Zena-san said her guess at Arisa's remark.

No wonder my Map search couldn't get a hit if it was a fictitious organization created by people who are in charge of punishing evils to hide their wrongdoings.

"Arisa, Zena-san, and Sera, please arrest the criminals at the places I point you at."

"--A diversion huh."

Arisa struck a snapping finger pose that didn't actually make a sound.

"Exactly."

Even if we know that it's the authority and judicial organ, the number of people is too big, thus I intend to cause them unrest by randomly arresting criminals who are likely connected to them.

"Besieging them would be troublesome with just you three alone, take the living doll unit from the airship with you."

The heroes should have been enough to act as a diversion, but either his Unique Skill has a limited range, or they carry prejudice on the downtown, they've been ignoring the crime syndicates at the high streets.

"Will Master watch over through magic?"

"I can't possibly do it all alone, I'll be relying on reinforcements, you see."

After seeing off Arisa and the others running off toward the airship, I went behind a shadow and summoned a reliable reinforcement from the capital with Unit Arrangement.

--Chuii.

Sage Mouse ChuuFat cried on my palm.

The king-like outfit and crown I gave to him as a present suit him very well.

"Sorry to call you on a short notice, ChuuFat."

--Chuii.

ChuuFat cried, like he's saying "Don't worry about it."

"I'd like to investigate crimes done by the bigwigs of this country, could you lend me the Intelligence Bureau of Mouse Empire?"

--Chuii, Chuiiiiiiii.

ChuuFat cried out loud while beating his chest with his small hand, as if saying, leave it to me.

"I'll be counting on you then. I'll send you back, would you gather personnels needed at the Mouse Square then."

--Chuii.

I sent back the nodding ChuuFat to Shiga Kingdom's subterranean tunnel with Unit Arrangement.

With ChuuFat at the top, the Sage Mice have exerted a huge influence under Shiga Kingdom's capital, they've been helping to elevate hygiene level and curb criminal activity at the capital.

We may not be able to exchange words, but they understand our words, and can operate simple magic tools.

While waiting for the ChuuFat and other Mice, guess I'll go and support Arisa and the girls, and keep track on hero Seigi's movements?



Spacing out in a back alley would get me reported, thus I decided to move to a nearby bridge.

Gazing at the surface of water on top of a bridge shouldn't look that suspicious.

"Oh?"

There was already a preceding visitor on the bridge.

It's the 100-man platoon commander who was deemed a stalker at the trial yesterday.

His face looks serious, like he's going to attempt suicide anytime now--.

"--Geh."

While I was looking, the armored commander had put his feet on top of the bridge rail.

"Hold it right there!"

I immediately rushed out and pull the commander back.

"Unhand me! No point in me living anymore! No point in living a life where I can't see Yowa-chan's smiles!"

Yowa-chan must be the bakery girl's name.

"I was just watching over her, what's so wrong about that! Look at Dujii, no one arrest them no matter what shitty thing they did! This world ain't fair!"

He's at the absolute end of his wits.

"If I have to say, it's the way you're doing it that's wrong."

Oh crap, I went and said it out loud.

"--Way?"

The 100-man platoon commander is glaring at me resentfully.

Can't be helped, I'll accompany this guy till ChuuFat is done preparing.

"Yep. Should have directly confessed your love to Yowa-chan or something like that instead."

"Like I could do something so embarrassing!"

He declared something so weak with a manly expression.

No well, I think that's the starting point.

"Then what about utilizing a go-between?"

"Go-between?"

"Enlist your superior's help to ask her parents for her hands in marriage."

I'm not sure how much the average wage of this country's servicemen, but a 100-man platoon commander should be able to support a family.

The commander has a look like everything has ended in this world.

"I did that already. Her parent said 『I'm never giving my daughter to soldiers and guards.』"

They refused both soldiers that could die in a battlefield, and guards too?

Is it because they don't want a groom who can't continue the bakery or something?

"I see, I'm sorry to hear that. Here, eat these and try to cheer up."

Liquor is apparently banned in this city, so I gave him some donuts taken from my bag.

"This is good... Really good..."

Please don't eat while crying.

In addition, I used mind magic [Calm Field], [<<Inconstancy Regret>>], and [Mind Recovery] to sweep away his regret.

--Oh right.

"Can I ask you one thing?"

"What is it?"

I confirm one thing that's caught my interest earlier while supplying additional donuts to the commander who had done eating.

"You mentioned Crime Syndicate Dujii earlier--"

Earlier he said, "Look at Dujii, no one arrest them no matter what shitty thing they did!", didn't he.

"Yeah, guards who usually went to arrest criminals with zeal only do so haphazardly when it involves them, even the supposed watchmen of justice, Judicial Bureau won't dispatch their investigators for them."

I see, looks like I've narrowed down the places where ChuuFat should probe around.

"Do you know somewhere I can check records about cases that had happened and stuff?"

"Why dontcha look at either Judicial Bureau or the Guard Bureau?"

Looks like he's not detailed in this too.

Servicemen and guards have different jurisdictions after all.

Well, I'll likely find out what kind of crimes the Crime Syndicate Dujii has done if I check on Judicial Bureau and Guard Bureau records, then by investigating people who profited off of those crimes, seizing evidences should be possible.

Map Search is way too convenient I even forgot to check on such basic places.

I parted ways with the commander who looked like he had been liberated off of an evil spirit after binge eating donuts, and I decided to look for places where they keep the records of Judicial Bureau and Guard Bureau with space magic.



"Think it's about time they're ready?"

Looking at the Map, they seem to have done preparing, so I moved to a back alley and Unit Arranged ChuuFat and the other Mice all at once.

They've come together with crows for some reason.

Apparently, these crows are tamed animals of the Sage Mice.

Maybe I should call them Raven Riders?

"Now then, I'm counting on you."

--Chuii.

After seeing off Sage Mice who had signal transmitter magic tools with them, I went to prepare stuff for when we found the culprits.

Villains acting like good people huh, they should learn when it's time to give up.

16-40. [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald (4)

Satou here. I'm not very good with real mystery, but I'm quite fond of TV dramas about detectives. That they're easy on amateur viewers by doing stuff like suddenly divulging who the culprit is, or making an individual obviously suspicious are the nice things about them.



"Let's move on to the next one."

I'm currently doing a test in the Trial before God's room of the Main Temple after obtaining the permission through the miko.

The beastkin girls, Mia, Nana and Mito have come here from the Solitary Island to help me with it.

This time the room is closed for entry, thus no one is going to discriminate them.

"Hamburg steak is really good."

The girls answer my inquiry one after another.

"Aye!"

"Yes nanodesu! Hamburg-sensei is the strongest nanodesuyo!"

"It's a bit soft, but it is indeed good."

"Hamburg steak's tastiness is the truth so I announce."

"Nn."

"It really is."

The Golden Scale tilted toward me.

"Is it my turn next? Hamburg steak isn't really good."

Mito who stood opposite to me threw an inquiry that had been prepared beforehand.

"Owh, no~?"

"That can't be nodesu! Hamburg-sensei is really really tasty nodesuyo!"

"There might be people who don't agree to its softness, however I think the hamburg steak itself is good."

"I cry objection to that evaluation so I protest."

"Mwu."

We observe no change in the Golden Scale.

"True, it's not that good."

I said something that couldn't be farther from what I think, but the Golden Scale isn't moving an inch.

Looks like in cases the thing you said differs from what you have in mind, it will prioritize what you truly feel.

Suddenly I noticed something and looked below, there Pochi and Tama were looking up at me with sad faces.

"That was just a lie, you two."

"Sa~fe."

"Pochi is relieved nodesu. But lying is not good nodesuyo."

While patting the relieved Tama and Pochi who struck a "Bad!" pose, I organized what we had verified so far.

"--I think I've gotten a good idea about the mechanism."

The test is completed.

"It's over nodesu?"

"Yeah, I was able to understand it thanks to everyone's help."

"I'm honored to have been of use."

"Don't worry be happy~"

"Pochi is glad to hear that nanodesu."

"Master, how should I support you next, so I ask."

"Are you sure?"

I gave my thanks to the beastkin girls, Nana, Mia and Mito who had helped with the test.

Verifying [Golden Scale] was over so quick because these girls are honest to a fault.

I sent them back to the island after thanking them for their help.

Of course I plan to treat them to a full course hamburg steak for their assistance this time.

I thank the miko for allowing me to borrow the room and go back to the airship moored at the outskirts of the city.

Not for taking off, it's cause the ship has a complete set of counterespionage facility inside.



"Now then--"

Since it seems there's still some time until ChuuFat and the other mice, whom I have teleported below the building, to get into their positions, I'll go gather some intel with space magic.

"Usually, I'd go with the king first--"

Since this country's system closely resembles that of democratic ancient Greece's system, there's no king here.

There should be someone that rules over the City Core, but I couldn't find anyone who fit the bill with Map Search.

Perhaps the governance of City Core itself is split up.

That's interesting, maybe I should test it out with one of the City Cores when I have time later.

"Let's take a look at the Chief of Central Judicial Bureau for now."

I stopped myself right when I was going to invoke space magic at the location data I got from Map Search.

In countries with bad public orders and rampant crimes like this, there's a chance that they have sophisticated traceback magic devices installed.

Moreover, in this Judicial Nation Sheriffald, the positions of high ranking officials at Judicial Bureau are like those of nobles in other countries, so they might have access to the City Core terminal.

And if they do, that means they're capable of deploying anti-detection

barriers.

Thus, I decided to use the anti-traceback space magic spell before invoking [Clairvoyance] and [Clairhearis].

The chief of the Central Judicial Bureua was a stout fat bald middle-aged man.

『--Who's there!』

Oops, I got found out way quicker than expected.

There's a possibility of him simply bluffing, but 9 out of 10, it's probably for real.

Well, since I the traceback was repelled by the anti-detection space magic I prepared beforehand, he only found out that someone was trying to peek, not that I was the one doing it, surely.

"But, that's weird..."

Unless he's in danger of getting monitored daily, there's no need to deploy anti-detection barriers.

I could understand if he was in the middle of scheming something, but deploying the barrier while he's just doing paperwork feels unrealistic cost-wise.

"Fumu, it doesn't seem like the chief is going to call his subordinates..."

I checked on the Map right after canceling the space magic, but there were no movements that indicated the chief calling his subordinates.

Perhaps, this chief is being monitored daily by someone else?

Well, I've designated the chief's room as the most important place for the Sage Mice to observe, so let's just leave it to them.



There's still some time before the Sage Mice are finished with the arrangement, thus I've decided to investigate people who likely have access to the City Core terminal.

First thing first, let's take a peek at the Guard Bureau's guardroom.

『Bah, I'm beat.』

『You there, less talking more moving.』

I could see one of the guards writing something resembling records while grumbling.

Still, records huh--might be worth stealthily duplicating them and pinpoint all the corrupt people.

『Hero-sama's working his ass off out there.』

『No shit, ya think all Hero-sama are like that?』

『All Hero-sama? Ya talk like there's more than one hero-sama.』

『Previous hero was yeah, but rumor says there's four rite' now.』

Oh, quite an interesting topic.

It isn't related to the Trial, but let's lend an ear to this.

『The heck, four?』

『Yea, seems they all got summoned together.』

『Hee, so how's the other heroes like?』

『Hell if I know.』

Fumu, [Summoned together], does that mean it was a Group Summoning?

Yet, I only found Hero Meiko alone when I searched for heroes at Saga Empire, wonder why?

Maybe it was simply a false rumor, or perhaps those heroes are somewhere else--most likely they're being reared at either Saga Empire's [Hero Labyrinth] or [Bloodsucking Labyrinth].

Suddenly, a young man who seemed to be their superior came in.

『Oy! We're sortieing out! Looks like they found out about the illicit brewery at the central district this time.』

『Seriously?』

『Hero-sama works way too hard.』

I took a glance at the Map.

The ones taking actions at the central district are Arisa and the girls, not the hero.

They have left the brewery already, and are in the middle of moving to the next criminal's hideout.

『Quit your whining and get to work! If we don't control the situation while Hero Seigi-dono is out there, Hero Yuuki-dono of [Explosive Flame] would show up and turn everything into ashes!』

『What the hell.』

『You sure he's not a demon lord instead?』

I agree with these guards.

Apparently this Hero Yuuki is magician type hero.

He's probably the hero that came to Garleon Union after we left.

I've been ignoring these heroes since I'm not really interested, but once this trial is over, perhaps I'd better gather information from Echigoya Firm and Shiga Kingdom's Intelligence Department?

"Now then--"

When no one was present inside the room, I took it upon myself to borrow the records with [<<Aport an Object>>], and copied the documents with [Recording], [Magic Hand], and [Parallel Thought].

I could have used Transcript skill too if I wanted, but it's faster this way.



After I'm done copying, I return the original records to its place.

I duplicate the copied data into blank papers using my Storage function. It's an original function of Exchange Column's Memo Note to copy text.

Afterward, I call Tifaliza at Echigoya Firm using space magic [Telephone].

『Tifaliza, sorry for bothering when you're busy, but could you analyze some documents for me.』

『As you wish, Kuro-sama.』

Tifaliza readily gave her consent with her usual flat tone even though it was a sudden request.

I send the copied records to Tifaliza's office room with Unit Arrangement.

『What kind of analysis would you like to read?』

『Please check records about crimes perpetrated by Crime Syndicate Dujii, and list all the people who declared or made verdicts that those crimes are perpetrated by Dujii.』

『Understood. Should I also list people who could be profiting from the cases?』

『If you could do that, please do.』

Got a feeling that's impossible from the records alone.

『Kuro-sama, Manager Elterina would like to ask if you want her to do something--』

Looks like the manager is still bordering on workaholic like usual.

『Nah, nothing in particular. Tell the manager to work hard at her normal duty.』

『Y-yes. Understood.』

While feeling slightly puzzled by Tifalza's ambiguous sounding answer, I ended the space magic Telephone call.



"Think it's about time?"

Once I've confirmed that the Sage Mice are in positions, I use space magic once again to investigate things.

The plan is to let the Sage Mice to record the situations there with the magic

tools they carry after we shook things up.

After deploying space magic to prevent traceback, I invoke space magic [Clairvoyance] and [Clairhearis].

Before challenging the chief again, I chose between the three vice chiefs.

I saw on the Map that someone had just rushed into the Vice-chief's room, so I peeked on them.

『Vice-chief Bupa, Zou-dono's brewery has been raided.』

『What!』

What a timely topic.

This Vice-chief doesn't have anti-detection barrier deployed, so he doesn't notice me looking.

I listen carefully to their conversations through the space magic.

The watching sage mice are carrying video recording magic tools with them, but just in case, I also activate video and sound recording magic to preserve the info I'm witnessing now.

『That blasted hero! What the hell is the official we stick on him doing! Didn't I give him order to lead the hero to the underground bars at the downtown!』

I see, the reason why the hero had been focusing solely at the downtown was these guys' handiwork.

『N-no, that's, it's not the hero this time.』

『What? Another straitlaced inspector? Or is it the hardheaded fools from Guard Bureau?』

Since it's from the suspect himself, I memo-ed people who sounded like they could be taken off the list.

『It's neither of them』

『Then who? Just speak!』

『It's the subordinates of Shiga Kingdom's Earl Pendragon...』

In the picture, the handsome middle-aged judicial bureau Vice-chief stamped

his feet before he beat the desk hard.

『Why are those bunch acting like our country's guards! Stop their foolish actions at once!』

『H-however--』

『What are you hesitating for? What is there to fear from a noble, no matter how high his rank, of a foreign country we have no real diplomatic relation with. Dispatch the national soldiers and knights if the guards can't handle them!』

--Oh?

Looks like the fact that I'm [Demon Lord Slayer] hasn't reached him, maybe because there's practically no diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Well, since the judges and guards of this country should be listening when Hero Seigi called me [Demon Lord Slayer], I'm sure the news will spread before long.

『That's not what I mean! Earl Pendragon has come here to take on that Trial at God Urion Main Temple.』

『Trial? What the heck is that?』

Guess God's Trials aren't really well known?

『Are you not familiar with it? The Trial of God Union. Expose evils, make justice be known to the world, that trial.』

『An earl from a foreign country took that?』

The Vice-chief gnarled, "So what?", at the subordinate.

『The populace already knows about the trial. Should we stand in his way, wouldn't that be the same as declaring that there's something going on behind the scene!』

The vice-chief groaned to hear the subordinate.

This vice-chief didn't seem to be aware of it, but apparently, the God's Trial is a common knowledge amongst the populace from temple worships and folklores.

For now, these two seem to be in cahoot.

I open the Map and look for the next candidate.

I tried peeking at the Guard Bureau's director room since he was seemingly having a suspicious secret talk just like the vice-chief earlier.

『Director!』

『You again, Inspector Stary.』

A very obese inspector who was sweating all over pressed on a gray-haired old man, the director.

『I heard that the culprits of salt smuggling have been arrested?』

『Umu, if you mean that beastkin criminal, he had been captured by the pursuing investigator at the Corrupt City--I mean, City-state Dodobu.』

『So then, where is that criminal imprisoned at? I'm gonna find out the ringleaders this time for sure.』

The director pushed away the inspector who brought his face close.

Looks like he got his hands on the sweat as he took out a handkerchief and wipe them before replying the inspector.

『We've identified that already. After an interrogation by the investigators who caught him, he confessed that he was a member of [Crime Syndicate Dujii].』

『--Dujii!』

The inspector raised his voice like he heard the name of his parent's nemesis.

『Dujii! Dujii! Dujii! Are you saying that it's Dujii again!』

『Lower your volume.』

The bureau director frowned.

『I'll get a clue on Dujii's hideout for sure this time. Where's that criminal locked up at?』

『Aah, then you'd better go to the morgue instead of the jail.』

『Did you silence them again?』

『Stop phrasing it like that. Their comrades showed up while we were taking him... We had no other choice to prevent escape.』

The inspector is right, he's silenced them no matter how you look at it.

Moreover, there's a possibility that the beastkin was caught on a false charge judging from the flow of this conversation.

『Dead men tell no tales, huh...』

『You, stop needlessly suspecting your coworkers. I don't care if you're the Chief's favorite, keep that up and I'd have to hand out punishment soon, you hear me?』

The bureau director glanced at the door like he was driving out the inspector.

『I will definitely get a lead on Dujii! Definitely!』

The director sighed while ignoring the inspector who shouted out loud outside the room.

『Good grief, this is why these self-alleged justice bunch are bothersome. If you think you can get a lead on a crime syndicate that never existed, go on and do your worst.』

I check on one target after another after recording the director's confession.

I managed to investigate around 30 people before Arisa and the girls came back, but even though there were two among those who had put up anti-detection barrier, none had prepared a way to traceback like with the Central Judicial Bureau's chief.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"We're back."

The diversion group, Arisa and the girls returned to the base after arresting criminals.

"Zena-tan and Sera were completely dominating the battlefield today, I'll have you know."

"Not at all! I-I just took us to the places where the miasma were the thickest with Wind Magic."

"No need to be so modest, Zena. Didn't you practically arrest all the bad men

yourself using the combination of wind magic and self-defense art."

Zena-san is blushing to receive praises from Arisa and Sera.

"What about Sera-san?"

"I only went around telling apart people who had malice in their heart with holy magic."

Arisa could probably do the same with people whose offenses are carved on their Status, but Sera probably saw through those who didn't have them carved.

After all, you can use City Core to delete crimes carved on Status.

"What's that mountain of documents over here?"

"Those files with tags are records of this country. While these thin files are the report Tifaliza analyzed."

"In that short while? Master, you work your employees hard as always."

Arisa took the thin file and began to read on it while sighing.

"Master, this is amazing. Are these documents really created while we were away?"

"Yep, it is."

I don't know how Tifalize analyzed that bundle of records, but the report she made contains minute details in an easy to understand manner like, who laid the blame on Dujii, or who profited from those crimes.

"Really, she'd have been the most valuable player in a cyber information war."

"She really would."

I nodded together with Arisa who was done reading the file.

If I didn't make sure to keep Tifaliza's talent a secret, people at the level of Shiga Kingdom's prime minister would have tried to head hunt her.

I shared the content of the record I took with space magic earlier with the girls.

Even content that were meaningless by itself carry a different meaning after reading Tifaliza's summarized report.

This much is enough to expose them, but still impossible to apply to the whole ruling class of this country.

There's a fair amount of honest guards like the inspector earlier, however, most of the upper echelon ones are taking the wait-and-see approach, none seem capable of unmasking the ringleaders.

It's hard to solely rely on the Main Temple's authority to expose the corruption.

It could end up turning into Main Temple VS Central Judicial Bureau if I'm not careful.



--Chuii.

The Sage Mouse ChuuFat that had come back took out many recording magic tools from his small <<Magic Mouse Pouch>> and handed them over to me.

"Good work, ChuuFat. Make sure to change shift with other mice and get some meals before continuing your surveillance okay."

I put Souffle Cakes and Cheese Cakes into ChuuFat's Mouse Pouch and teleported him back to the Judicial Nation's underground.

We check on the recording one by one.

『Hero and an Earl who took on the [Trial of God Urion] huh.... I loathe to borrow the powers of foreigners, but this country has no capability to save itself from itself anymore.』

"Master, isn't this person--"

I quietly nodded to Arisa who turned around, and made a gesture to listen quietly.

『It shouldn't surprise anyone if they came to the conclusion that I'm the head of Dujii if they were to check on the documents.』

No, unfortunately, you were only deemed gray even in Tifaliza's Report.

『Perhaps I should confess and drag along people that Inspector Stary is investigating with me, laying bare this country's abscesses in broad daylight to public....』

Quite a resolution.

He's probably been working hard to correct the corruption in this country.

I lift my eyes from the monitor and look at the girls.

"So yeah, I plan to finish everything tomorrow."

Looks like I can complete this trial quickly.

I'm gonna test a trial holding big weights on the [Golden Scale] tonight, but before that--

"I'll be going to meet the Chief."

To make the final preparations, you see.

16-41. [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald (5)

Satou here. Things that are right to you may not necessarily apply to everyone. Self-righteousness sure can easily run wild, surprisingly enough.



"To reiterate, you claim that the people on this list have created a fictitious crime syndicate known as Dujii to be a cover to conceal their criminal activities?"

The Chief of Judicial Bureau sighed as he looked at the list.

After we were done with preparations, I got to the Central Judicial Bureau through the Main Urion Temple's miko's connection.

The Chief's name isn't on this list.

"However, I only have evidence for around half of them--"

"And those evidence are?"

"That will be for the Trial before God."

After I told the Chief that, the henchmen who had their names on the list all began to verbally abuse me.

Well, I pay them no heed so I've got not clue what they're saying.

"Why not, we should accept it, Chief. It will be a good chance to prove our innocence in front of God and other members of diet."

The man who said that was the one whose name is on top of the list, the handsome vice-chief.

The Chief turned a dubious look at the guy's unexpected remark.

"Our innocence will be guaranteed by the 『Golden Scale』."

The lackeys open their mouth all at once after the confident remark of the vice-chief.

"T-that's right! Those participating in the Trial before God are our cohorts, ladies and gentlemen with judicial qualification!"

"They will surely believe in our innocence!"

"The Scale is always on our side!"

I'm sure they know about the Golden Scale's mechanism too.

"Sir Pendragon, we will acknowledge the exercise of Trial before God. However, I assume you are aware that if you were to lose in this trial, that is the same as throwing mud in the honored faces of your country administrative?"

"Yes, of course. Whether it's a fine in the number that rivals national budget, or the magic sword Demon Slayer that's slain a demon lord, we would yield you any item you so desired as a reimbursement if it ever comes to that."

Oh crap, Deception skill went haywire for a bit there.

There's no such thing as magic sword Demon Slayer, I've gotta make one later.

"Very well--"

The Chief gave his agreement after looking at my face for a while.

The flow of events so far happened exactly like we had arranged last night.

"--Vice Chief Bupa and you guys, you are fine with it, correct?"

"Yes, everything under the just law."

The vice-chief replied sarcastically at the Chief.



『Arisa, they acknowledged the trial here. How's the preparation for the guest over there, ready to go?』

『You betcha! I got it under control quick.』

I'm talking with Arisa through space magic [Telephone].

Even though it was a sudden visit on her part, looks like Arisa cleared it with her charm.

『Coming too fast would throw a wrench in this plan, make sure to match the timing okay.』

『OK, wanna match our clock so there won't be any [margin of error]?』

Arisa was seemingly referencing something but since I couldn't recall what it was from, I gave her some random "Yeah let's", and changed the call to the next person.

『Satou-san, her highness Sistina's golems are helping with the installation over here, we should be able to make it in time.』

『Thank you, Sera-san.』

Looks like they're done with installing a device that telecasts video at the plaza.

It will be showing masterpiece paintings and world's pretty scenery until the appointed time.

There should be quite a crowd gathered by the time the trial starts.

『Forgive me, Satou-san. I'm still not done with the construction.』

Zena-san gave that reply when I checked on her progress.

『Was there a problem?』

『Yes actually, I saw the beastkin-san we helped in the first day getting chased by some hoodlums, so I went to save him...』

Being unable to overlook oppression of the weak is truly like Zena-san.

Apparently the people chasing the beastkin weren't the store manager in that trial but the human men who were working in the same store.

Zena-san suppressed those men and towed them to the guards.

『I'll absolutely make sure to finish it before the time.』

『Please don't beat yourself over it. Don't worry, I'll send reinforcement your way, Zena-san.』

Selecting personnel is my job.

After telling the sorry Zena-san not to worry about it, I ask Hikaru at the

Solitary Island Palace for help.

『You sure you want to let Shiga Kingdom be wide open?』

『No worries. There hasn't been any suspicious activity there for a while, and we have guard golems and Echigoya members around too.』

After equipping Hikaru with anti-backdoor items like Arisa and Sera, I Unit Arranged her to the airship at the outskirts and tasked her to help Zena-san.

--Chuii?

When I saw ChuuFat who peeked out of my breast pocket, I remembered that the Sage Mice who make up the information network at Shiga Kingdom had come here.

Well, it's not like we're living in some game or manga, no way the end would immediately begin the moment a flag was raised.



"--Under these suspicion, they are accused to be the ones behind Crime Syndicate Dujii."

Boos and jeers erupted from people who also weren't in the list after the indictment was read aloud at the Trial before God.

The presiding judge was shouting, "Keep silent!" while waving around a handbell-like thing, but most couldn't shut their mouths.

"Please keep it down."

I silenced the bad mannered people with wind magic [Wide Area Silence].

As you'd expect from an anti-magician group spell, the effect is outstanding.

I could have used [Compulsion (Geass)] skill if I wanted to, but that would faint people who tried to disobey it, so I refrained.

I cancel the spell on people who are unrelated like the judge, the temple head and miko.

When I winked at the temple head, he noticed that his voice would come out, and then he proceeded to speak.

"It appears that the disgrace displayed at the Trial before God has brought upon God Urion's wrath."

With the temple head's declaration, the people in the hall turned pale.

The huge Weasel Empire having been obliterated in a single night by way of Divine Punishment seems to be still fresh in their memories.

Even though my tale of demon lord slaying never reached here, news about the downfall of Weasel Empire probably did through Saga Empire.

"Those who wish to let their voice be known, raise your hand and wait for my approval as a presiding judge before you speak out."

Once the judge reminded them of something really obvious, I canceled [Wide Area Silence] on everyone.

"Are you siding with that swindling foreigner hiding behind God's name! You traitor--"

Suddenly, an old man who was a part of the booers began to sling abusive

language along with his saliva, so I made him quiet for a bit with wind magic [Dyspnea].

This is an arranged version of wind magic [Suffocation] to make it non-fatal.

The target will breathe normally once they calm down, so this spell is perfect for these troublesome people.

"Quiet. You are in God's presence. Once again--"

The trial finally begins for real once the judge re-state his warning.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"--I understand the content of the indictment. However, aren't all the information come from rumors you've seen and heard, sire? Is that no difference than a false accusation then. Do you have evidence with you, sire?"

Vice-chief objected politely.

The [Golden Scale] greatly tilted toward him, maybe thanks to his composure.

Yup, just as planned.

"Sir Pendragon, please submit your evidence."

"Very well. If you'd please witness this--<<Image Projection>>."

I took out a mysterious glittering object from my breast pocket, and recited some convincing-sounding Command Words.

This mysterious object is a gem made from processed special sap called Alua, it produces beautiful glittering light on the surface of the object if you circulate your mana into it.

By the way, this object is the latest creation of the up-and-coming artist, Tama-sensei.

If I'm not mistaken the title was [Crowd Dancing Millet Jelly].

While thinking about such, I produced a screen in the air and projected the footage recorded yesterday on it.

At the same time, I put up On-Screen Windows on top of the projection to display the crimes those people have committed.

""""Oooooooooooooo""""

While the audience was getting surprised, I added more display windows that had the recording details.

"So you were the culprit of that incident!"

"You bastard, you were connected to the scoundrels who injured my uncle!"

"No, those pictures must be some kind of mistakes!"

"Come to think of it, I saw that guy coming out of your mansion!"

The great hall of the Trial before God is wrapped in tumult of pandemonium.

Even the usually always calm judge seemed to be overwhelmed by the impact of the moving pictures.

Well, since it's a world where recording equipment are artifacts you'd excavate from Furu Empire era, this reaction is probably only natural when

they're shown near-futuristic screening like this.

And thus, the [Golden Scale] scoops out the change in the audience's deep psyche and tilts toward me.

My victory is all but guaranteed as long as this keeps up.

However, that would not satisfy the condition of God Urion's Trial then.

The sound of a bell resounded once the [Golden Scale] completely tilted to one side.

That sound greatly lowered the tumult volume.

"Everyone, be quiet--"

The Vice-chief calmed people down in place of the flustered judge.

I muted the sound while the footage is still rolling.

Of course there were people who kept on hammering on without caring, so I

shut them up with [Dyspnea] chantlessly.

The vice-chief who had a refreshing martyr-like expression on his face continued on while pointing at the completely tilted scale.

"--It appears that I cannot shirk away any longer from this. With our dignity as the watchdogs of law, let us confess to all our crimes and serve our sentence."

The vice-chief called for the people around him.

The majority of those people were looking down on the ground in despair, but some were turning their eyes all over the places, still stubbornly trying to look for a way out.

The Chief is glaring at that Vice-Chief with a puzzled expression.

He must have felt something odd with the Vice-Chief who acted too gallantly.

The Chief glanced at me.

He might have sensed something wrong considering it went way too smooth.

"Those who have objection may come forward. Otherwise, I will proceed to read the sentence."

The judge announced that with a carrying voice.

"Well then--"

A sound of door getting violently flung open stopped the judge who was going to state the sentence.

"--OBJECTION!"

A boy donning blue colored armor stood in front of the door.

16-42. [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald (6)

Satou here. It's easy to predict moves of people who are true to their desires and objectives, regardless if they're just or evil. While it's not that simple to read the action patterns of altruistic people.



"That's Saga Empire's--"

The audience buzzed in whispers.

--Hero Seigi."

As if their words never reached Hero Seigi, he grandly stepped forward toward the judge.

Everyone's eyes are gathered at Hero Seigi.

Clad in faint blue light, his steps showed no hint of hesitation.

This boy sure is quite brazen considering he was just an ordinary middle schooler until only recently.

"I'm back."

Arisa suddenly showed up next to me.

"Good work, Arisa. Your timing was perfect."

"Fer' sure. All that staling tactics were really tiresome, but it was all worth it after hearing Master's praise."

I had asked Arisa to bring Hero Seigi here at this timing.

Arisa is clinging on my arm while saying something like, "Hey Master, I don't mind perverted reward, you know?", but guess I should just ignore her like usual.

"Hero Seigi-dono, what do you have to object?"

The judge inquired Hero Seigi.

"I know--"

Hero Seigi covers his face with his hand and looks around at the surrounding people from between his fingers.

Blue light dwells in his eyes.

"--that you are evil! Pitch darker evil than anyone here!"

And then he vigorously pointed his finger at a certain person.

"T-the chief?"

Inspector Starry behind the chief let out his surprise.

That's right, the one whom Hero Seigi pointed at was the Chief of the Central Judicial Bureau.

"The Ogre of Impartial Law is 『Evil』?"

"He may be a hero, but he's still a kid after all. Someone must have instigated him into it."

The people around us don't seem to think the Chief to be evil.

"I am evil you say? What evidence do you--"

"I'm the evidence!"

Hero declared so while being clad in blue light.

"The 『Justice Mind's Eye (There is only one Truth)』 and 『Evil Search (Where's the Bad People at)』 bestowed to me by Parion-sama informed me! That you are evil! In the name of Parion-sama, I declare here! You are evil!"

I think the chief was asking for evidence, but Hero Seigi made a declaration under god's name as if that didn't matter.

In a world where gods exist for real, the words of heroes beckoned by gods themselves carry much weight.

At the very least, the countless Truth Discerners here should be able to testify that he hasn't told a lie.

Still, nevertheless, some people just don't know when to give up.

"Without any evidence--"

『I went and made a fictitious organization and it was for nothing.』

Another voice overlapped with the Chief's.

"T-this is the chief's voice?"

"T-that's!"

"The chief's room."

A video showing the chief's back from diagonally above got projected here.

This recording was taken by the Sage Mice that had snuck in.

The image quality is not the best due to the limitation of the portable recorders, please don't mind it.

『We must prune out all the abscesses to turn this imperfect country into a perfect country only for justice, and humans. For the sake of destroying all evil-
-』

The recording stops there, so I make it repeat back to the beginning.

Since He wasn't going to show his true color even after all the shake-up, I made the Sage Mice to burn Confession Incenses before they could finally take

the recording earlier, but his self-control was too strong, the monologue ended abruptly.

But there was no mention of [Crime Syndicate Dujii] in the recording, and no evidence that he knew about the crimes, thus I made use of Hero Seigi's Unique Skill and Hero's brand.

"I can't believe it was the chief who created Crime Syndicate Dujii..."

Inspector Starry who's under the Chief's protection fell on his knee.

"It appears that God Urion had foreseen everything."

While saying that to the Chief, I leveled the [Golden Scale] back.

"I-I did it for the sake of justice. To turn this country where injustice runs rampant into a perfectly just country..."

"Chief."

The vice-chief stepped forward and stopped in front of the chief who was talking to himself.

"No one person is completely clean."

"I know that much! That's why I'm going to eliminate evil--"

"What's the standard of that evil?"

"Isn't it obvious! The law of Sherrifald is justice! Anyone who violates the law is evil!"

They've started some troublesome conversation on their own somehow.

I was going to quickly end this by branding the Chief guilty by way of [Golden Scale] trinket, but the vice-chief went on to try to correct the chief's self-righteousness.

Next to me, Arisa is getting busy like, "That's not right!", "Yup, yeah, figured."

I turned around because I thought it was weird for Hero Seigi to keep silent in this situation, his mouth was wrapped in red bandage-like thing.

Seems to be the doing of the bandage user attendant from back then.

"W-was my justice mistaken all along..."

"Haste makes waste and only sows discords. Tomorrow rather than today, the day after tomorrow rather than tomorrow, we have no choice but to correct it little by little."

"That's why, you were--"

The Chief and the Vice-chief are now looking at each others' eyes.

I don't really care what happened afterward so long as I satisfied God Urion's order, but this would likely lead into a country without leadership if it kept up, so I decided to project the last recording.

『The illegal brewery has been exposed. Yet so many still demand liquor. If this keeps up, there will be more smugglers coming from Corrupt City Dodobu, and that country's cloud of influence will only grow larger. And it's Dodobu that houses many beastkin people who bear grudges on our country. None would be the wiser if they put something among the smuggled liquor... Dyeing your hands in evil to protect your country, what an irony...』

The content is not dissimilar to the one with the chief earlier, however no one jeered at this.

『Hero and an Earl who took on the [Trial of God Urion] huh.... I loathe to borrow the powers of foreigners, but this country has no capability to save itself from itself anymore. It shouldn't surprise anyone if they came to the conclusion

that I'm the head of Dujii if they were to check on the documents. Perhaps I might as well confess and drag along people that Inspector Stary is investigating with me, laying bare this country's abscesses in broad daylight to public....』

There was no real need to show this scene, but I put it on the screen anyway.

"Vice-chief Bupa!"

"You're the true patriot!"

People who look like they've been overcome by emotions are praising vice chief.

About half of them seem to be acting, but since the vice-chief is needed to run this country, I'm keeping my mouth shut.

"But why? That guy's evil too y'know?"

Hero Seigi said that while looking like he couldn't comprehend, but unfortunately, it seemed to fall on deaf ears.



『--Thou has laid bare evils under light, and corrected injustice. I shall grant thee my mark.』

While being bathed in indigo light, I was informed of the trial's completion at Main Urion Temple's oracle room.

>Title [Urion's Mark] Acquired

>Title [One Approved by Urion] Acquired.

>Title [Urion Saint] Acquired

>Title [Urion Apostle] Acquired

>Title [Wiretapper] Acquired

>Title [Candid Shooter] Acquired

Delete the last two please, they make me look like a criminal.

My consciousness goes back to the temple after brief words of God Urion.

Inside a light dawning from heavens, particles of light gather into one item.

--Spectacles?

It's a spectacles with gilded rims adorned with an indigo colored gem called [Cyanite].

Unlike ordinary specs, the hinges are decorated with rustic and odd looking embossed carving.

According to AR readings, this [Golden Spectacles] is enhanced with an effect similar to Hero Seigi's Unique Skill, [Justice Mind's Eye], or [Eye of Conviction].

Feels like it's the first time I've gotten an item I wanted after all these trials.

After firmly refusing Head Temple's invitation to the feast celebrating the trial completion, I left the temple.

I mean the temple's meals are of the same bad tasting variety as the city's dinery.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

I was met with a scene of Hero Seigi yelling [You're evil!] at a bakery shopkeeper in front of the store.

The shopkeeper was dragged away by the bandage attendant while shouting, "I'm not the only one! Everyone is doing it too!"

It kinda piqued my curiosity so I tasked Arisa and the girls to ask around about the situation.

Hero Seigi turned around when he noticed me.

"Did you come here to brag your victory, Pendragon?"

"The thought never crossed my mind."

Oh right, I forgot that we had a bet with Arisa at stake.

Looks like Hero Seigi has internalized me as the winner for exposing the crime syndicate Dujii.

"More importantly, could you tell me about the present day heroes?"

I tried asking him directly.

"The other heroes? Why would you ask that?"

"The previous hero, Hayato-sama had asked me to take care of the next generation heroes if I met them, you see."

It's not really an answer, but Hero Seigi is nodding, seemingly satisfied.

"Including me, there's four heroes that got summoned. You know Hero Meiko right?"

Looks like the group summoning rumor was true.

"Yeah I do. Apparently she's been going around helping regions that were damaged badly by the monster disasters."

Hero Seigi frowned in doubt when I said that.

"Help? That Meiko?"

"Is she not?"

"I know that she left the imperial capital, but I've got no clue where she's gone to. But I just can't imagine that girl doing such tedious stuff like helping people in need."

It's hard to judge whether this is his prejudice or the truth.

According to the Map's Marker Column, Hero Meiko is currently visiting a country protected by dragons, Dragg Kingdom.

I should check out Hero Meiko later.

"How about the other two? There's a hero called 『Explosive Flame』, Hero Yuuki, isn't there?"

"Hell naw, that Explosive Flame idiot Yuuki is no hero."

Hero Seigi spat out while saying that.

"That guy wields the powers given to him by God to only do as he pleases."

Well, it's no surprise if a middle schooler grew impudent when they're given such powers.

They're literally chosen by gods after all.

"If it's to defeat demons or monsters, he won't care even if the people in the area haven't finished evacuat--"

"Seigi!"

The civil official attendant rushed up and stood between me and Hero Seigi.

She must be working as a supervisor to prevent Hero Seigi from talking too much.

"Could you kindly refrain from forcefully trying to fish out internal info about Saga Empire from our young hero here? Earl Pendragon?"

The official attendant warned me with thorny tone.

"That wasn't my intention at all. Since I was asked by the previous hero

Hayato-sama to lend my help to the next heroes, I was just trying to find out more about the current heroes within the acceptable scope."

"Is that right. However, as it could invite misunderstandings, please do so only when us attendants are present."

Seems like Saga Empire's heroes have it hard.

"I presume you're done with your talk, correct? If you'd please excuse us then."

The attendant tried to forcefully end the conversation.

"Sorry, I have one last question."

I haven't asked about the last hero.

"Seigi-dono, what kind of person is the last hero?"

"You mean Fuu? That guy is a shut-in, so I don't know much. They used Soul Art to make skeletons while grinning like--" <TLN: The hero's gender is not clear here.>

"Seigi!"

"Ah yea yea, I got it. I shouldn't talk bad about other heroes right? Geez, you're even more naggy than sensei."

The last hero, Fuu seems to be a shut-in.

Maybe they're similar to the Goblin Princess Yuika at Selbira's Labyrinth lower layer?

They seem to be good with Soul Art too, might get along with the pleasant bunch of reincarnated reincarnated people at the labyrinth's lower layer.

For the time being, I guess Hero Fuu is of no concern?

I'm curious about Hero Meiko too, but if I have to say, Hero Yuuki seems to be the one most prone to cause trouble.

"Let's go, Seigi. Well then, Earl Pendragon, excuse us."

The official took Hero Seigi away after leaving a courteous speech.

"Master, we've asked around."

Arisa told me what they heard about the bakery storekeeper.

Apparently, there was an underground bar below the bakery and it got exposed.

"I feel sorry for that bakery girl. Got followed around by a stalker and then her parents got arrested."

I just noticed that this bakery was the store from that time.

The punished 100-man platoon commander's words flashed on my mind--.

『Her parent said "I'm never giving my daughter to soldiers and guards."』

--I see. It was probably not because of "corrupt soldiers and guards", but that it would "expose the underground bar."

I feel refreshed now that one mystery was solved even though it was nothing major.

"Well, shall we head to the next country then."

"We couldn't find any sightseeing spots here after all."

I affirm the smiling Sera and then we leave [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald behind on the airship.

Additionally, as the beastkin that Zena-san saved was a local from a village near the corrupt city Dodobu, I employed him as a local representative to establish Echigoya Firm at the city.

Since there seems to be a lot of unfortunate beastkin with similar situations, having one that could receive them well would be swell.

I cleared God Urion's trial in two days, let's aim to clear the next God Zaikuon's trial quickly too.

Since he seems to be a god with a short fuse, it would be nice if it didn't end up with an abrupt "Fight with me."

Yeah, there's no way that would happen.

I set the airship's course toward our next destination, the place where

Zaikuon Main Temple is located, the [Country of Transformation] Pier Rock.

16-43. The Four Heroes (1)

※ This is not from Satou's perspective. Third person point of view.

"Oh my? I thought it was unusual for Sera to ask me a favor, so it was your doing?"

At the room in the royal castle's villa given to Saga Empire's imperial princess Maryest, as her friend, the [Skyshredding Witch] Ringrande greeted the guests.

"My apologies if it looks like I'm sneaking on you."

"Satou-san, there is no need to apologize. I have no doubt that Ane-sama had noticed it the moment I asked to meet her."

Beside the apologizing [Demon Lord Slayer] Earl Satou Pendragon, [Oracle Miko] of Tenion Temple and also the little sister of Ringrande spoke out in irritation.

Sera's complex towards her older sister is as strong as always.

"And so Satou, since you want to meet Mary, that means you've made up

your mind to marry me and Mary?"

"No--"

"Wrong!"

Before Satou could finish, Sera strongly denied her elder sister's joke.

Ringrande doesn't look offended at all by her little sister's attitudes, or rather she looks so unfeelingly unperturbed. That is in order to irritate Sera.

In truth, Ringrande's inner thought was filled with, "Jealous Sera is soo cute."

"So, Earl Pendragon, did you need me for something?"

Maryest who was watching the sisterly fight with a tired look asked Satou to move the conversation forward.

"I'd like to inquire you about the heroes who were summoned here after Hayato-sama went home."

"Is that so important that you, who should have been out at the western part of the continent, came back here to ask me about it?"

Princess Maryest asked back as if she was probing Satou's true intention.

"Yes, I ran into Hero Seigi-dono in one of the countries I visited and heard about the other heroes from him, thus I couldn't help but wanting to inquire Maryest-sama about them."

"Did you not ask Seigi-dono?"

"Of course I did, but his information was a bit too subjective..."

"Well, I guess it would. What about his attendants?"

"It appears that they were cautions against me."

Satou scratches his head bashfully.

When he makes these gestures, he looks his age unlike his usual adult atmosphere, so Princess Maryest thought.

"I have my duty as a princess of Saga Empire. Are you aware of that?"

"Yes of course, I am. I wouldn't ask things like their Unique Skills or such. I merely wanted to hear what Maryest-sama thinks about their personality each and your impression on them."

Princess Maryest contemplates for a bit after hearing Satou's reply.

"Very well. It's a request by someone who might become my future husband after all. If you are fine with only info that won't put Saga Empire in disadvantages, I don't mind telling you."

"Thank you very much, Maryest-sama."

Princess Maryest offers Satou a seat.

While leaving the two sisters who are still quarrelling standing.

"What would you like to know?"

"Then let's start from your impression about the heroes."

"That's quite a vague question. Well, all right."

Maryest crosses her nicely shaped legs.

Unfortunately, there is no one in this room who could admire the beauty of her ankle.

"My impressions on the four heroes is that their immaturity really shows due to their young age, but generally they are『Existences that love justice』."

Her remark is seemingly unexpected to Satou as he stares at Princess Maryest's eyes as if probing her.

Sera who was quarrelling with her elder sister was seemingly alarmed by that as she left her sister and sat down next to Satou.

She's getting unusually close to him, but Satou himself doesn't seem to notice that.

"You don't believe it?"

"No, the hero whom I met, Seigi, was a boy that exactly fits Maryest-sama's description."

Princess Maryest burst into laughter at Satou's serious response.

She probably found it funny that he said that like an adult would even though the two of them are only around two years apart.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to mock Sir Pendragon."

Princess Maryest quickly apologized at Sera who was growing angry.

"Did you know that there were four heroes who were summoned this time?"

"Yes, apparently it was a group summoning or something along that line."

Satou affirmed Princess Maryest's question.

"So you knew. Group summoning is quite an extraordinary phenomenon, but there were records about it in the past. In most cases, there's only one hero while the other people are merely innocent bystanders, but the summoning this time was unusual in that all four were heroes."

"There was one who didn't act like a hero at all though."

"Rin, the person in question is yet an adult. Even that Hayato was a little kid with flippant attitudes when he was first summoned."

Princess Maryest should have been as young as Hero Hayato was when he was summoned, but Satou didn't point that out and quietly listened to her reminiscence.

Before long, she was done with it and went back to the topic.

"I'm sorry, I made you listen to all these irrelevant stories--"

"No, it was quite an interesting topic."

Satou replied the apologizing Princess Maryest without looking like he was offended at all.

"The first one, Hero Meiko. You have met her before yourself haven't you? As you might know, she's a problem child. Her combat aptitude is very high despite growing up in a peaceful country. Her initial level was high too. I can assert that she was stronger than Hayato was when they were first summoned."

Satou carefully listens to Princess Maryest.



Let's turn back the time a bit--when the Gods' Divine Punishment had just started.

"--I can't believe the 『Northern End Magic Beast』 sealed by the hero hundreds years ago has been revived!"

"Quit yappin' and prepare for defense! Fortress-Eating Elephant is gonna cross that mountain soon!"

"So even the Mountain Wall of the First Emperor that could prevent Great Monstrous Fish (Tovekezeera)'s invasion is meaningless against the Fortress-Eating Elephant..."

At one of the fortress protecting the city at Saga Empire's northern outskirts, a young officer was yelled at for his grumbling.

The defiant young officer's line of sight was fixed at the towering mountain range to the north.

"Your excellency General, Great Monstrous Fish (Tovekezeera) from the northern sea won't invade through the barrier the Fortress-Eating Elephant broke through, will they?"

"No need to fret, was it Third Princess Porikest? That person has gone on her way to restore the barrier, leading a magic division. Nothing to worry about if we leave it to the Witch of Ice, said to rival the attendant of previous Hero, Princess Maryest."

The general heartily nods while stroking his white beard.

Before long, a ripple of light that looks like an aurora appears above the mountain range and settles down.

"Here it is..."

"It appears that her royal highness succeeded in restoring the barrier."

"Yea, it'd be real helpful if she killed the beast while she was at it tho'..."

"There's a legend saying that Fortress-Eating Elephant is protected by a sturdy rock body and powerful magic walls. Not even her royal highness could hope to defeat such a thing by herself."

The General gazes at a black haired girl standing upright on top of a rampant tower.

"Unless they're a hero, huh?"

"Yes--"

The staff officers nodded at the general while looking worried at their trust in the being called hero and the young girl Meiko.

While no one denied his words, the Fortress-Eating Elephant showed up from beyond the mountain, broke through the defense line of Saga Empire and approached the north city.

"--That's the Fortress-Eating Elephant huh."

The Fortress-Eating Elephant boasting rocks as its outer skin is advancing on while easily mowing down nine-meter class golems left and right.

Its outer skin is clad in glittering blue light, not unlike hero's armor.

"It's entering the firing range soon. The magicians and large magic artillery should fire their volley."

Advanced level fire and wind magic shot by royal court magicians dispatched from the Imperial Capital, and the large magic artillery cannons got dispersed once they got past the Fortress-Eating Elephant's magic walls.

"What's happening?"

The general had no way of knowing that the adamantite crystals on the Fortress-Eating Elephant's skin dispersed the already reduced power of the

magic from its magic walls.

The seemingly unstoppable Fortress-Eating Elephant's advance came to a halt.

"It's the hero! Hero Meiko-sama is fightin'!"

Neither strikes from the elephant's trunk nor its blizzard breath could manage to graze Hero Meiko.

It's the power of her Unique Skill, [Unrivaled Agility (Never Get Hit)].

And by another power given by the God Parion, [Strongest Katana (Nothing cannot be cut)], she cut one of the Fortress-Eating Elephant's legs, however, the damage seemed to have been reduced due to the difference in sizes.

"W-what the hell is that?"

Hero Meiko took some distance away and began to shine blue.

And then the blue light is focused into her sword.

"OOOOOOOOHHHHH"

The scene observed by the general and the others is that of a huge blue sword slashing at the Fortress-Eating Elephant, dealing massive damage.

Hero Meiko didn't manage to cut it in two, but she continued to slash at it without stopping, and eventually defeated the Fortress-Eating Elephant.

"So this is the powers of heroes..."

"Previous hero Hayato-sama was quite powerful himself, but I do not think Hero Meiko-dono is in any way inferior. Saga Empire will stay peaceful so long as we have Heroes-sama bestowed by God Parion on our side."

The general's words were mixed among the cheers for hero.

As he watched Hero Meiko who fainted from overusing her powers getting nursed by her attendants.

Looks like she pushed herself too much.

This was right before she was given oracle that led her to the Weasel Empire.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"The part where she doesn't know her own limit is troubling, but I think Hero Meiko's powers are a cut above the rest."

"Unlike Hayato, she's the type that rushes through enemy one after another without stopping, perhaps the fact that there is no attendants that could keep up with her on the battlefield is the drawbacks here."

To compensate for such drawbacks, Lady Ringrande was temporarily enlisted in her campaign to the Weasel Empire.

"Rusus and Fifi would be perfect, but those two went and left Saga Empire before they could meet Hero Meiko."

Hero Hayato's attendants who left Saga Empire, Rusus and Fifi, are apparently going around the stormy countries on the western part of the continent.

"Would that sums it up for Hero Meiko?"

"Right. If you'd please tell me about Hero Seigi."

Princess Maryest sips the cup to quench her thirst.

"Hero Seigi isn't really suited for battle. If I had to say, I suppose he's a type that can only show his true worth by getting paired with Hero Meiko or Hero Yuuki, perhaps?"



It was about the time when Satou and the girls visited Sania Kingdom for the trial--

"Found it! There's a nest to the south-southwest. A huge group of underground monsters, numbering in four digits at least."

"That's a lot.... It's close by Sania Kingdom too, it's likely a nest of Sand Scorpions."

The civil official attendant made a guess from Hero Seigi's report while looking at the map.

His enemy search capability is as amazing as always, so the official thought.

Even a combination of high level wind and earth magicians can't detect this far.

"South-southwest, you mean around that sandstorm over there?"

"Sandstorm? I don't see any tho'?"

"Jema has a good sight after all. You should be able to see it too with Distant View."

The civil official attendant tells the bridge about the course through the speaking tube, to check Hero Seigi's investigation with their own eyes.

"You're amazing, Seigi. To think you found a nest of monsters hidden underground from this distance."

"Chellis, looks like Moryu has something to say."

Rabbitkin attendant, Jema, said so to the civil official attendant, Chellis.

Attendant Moryu who's wearing the royal court magician robe drops her hood even lower as she looks at the civil official attendant while behaving like a

suspicious individual.

"What's the matter, Moryu?"

"Err, umm, i-it's nothing big, umm--"

"I don't mind even if it's nothing. Even if it's about how you think the desert sand has different color, or how the cloud looks like the bread we had this afternoon."

Even though she's hard to handle, civil official attendant fully trusts attendant Moryu's magical knowledge.

"T-the barrier, i-is, opened. O-other parts are tattered too, but there's one with a neatly made hole over there."

Attendant Moryu sorted out her report in her head while stammering as she gave it.

"Perhaps, someone has broken in? According to the legend, there should be a powerful monster sealed inside since the age of myth, the 『Land King』... Seigi, do you remember the presence of the Fortress-Eating Elephant that Hero Meiko killed before?"

"Yeah, I do, and?"

"Try looking for something stronger than that."

"Nothing like that y'know?"

She requests the hero Seigi who instantly talked back to, "give it another try" with a scary smile on her face.

"I-I got it--"

Blue light circulates on Hero Seigi's body.

"Hmm, there's really nothing--ah, wait. Something's there. It's like super hot spicy curry inside a retort pouch. I don't really get it, but it's probs super dangerous."

"I wonder if it's the sealed 『Land King』?"

"Chellis, report from the bridge, they saw a Sania Kingdom's sand ship behind a rock."

After thinking a bit, the civil official attendant came to a conclusion that it was

probably a regular check by Sania Kingdom's personnels.

"We should not needlessly involve ourselves in Sania Kingdom's matter. Let's just report what Seigi found to Sania Kingdom."

"Eeh, we're not gonna kill it? I can beat it with the 『Sword of Condemnation (Justice Wins)』 I got from Parion, I tell you. Let's farm some exp, c'mon."

Ever since he defeated a mid-class demon in a single blow, Hero Seigi has developed a tendency to overestimate his Unique Skill.

"That might be a good idea if there is only one enemy and without Sania Kingdom's people around, but the location is not ideal."

And even before that, the civil official attendant figured that hero Seigi alone probably couldn't win against a legendary class monster from the age of myth.

"Lots of Sand Scorpions have positioned themselves around it too."

"Yes, Hero Meiko and Hero Yuuki should be able to handle them, but it's impossible for Seigi."

"You saying I'm weaker than those two?"

Hero Seigi pouted to hear the attendants' talk.

"You've got it mistaken. It's a matter of compatibility."

The civil official made a follow up.

"I'm sure that Seigi can beat a powerful enemy easier than Hero Yuuki would if it's alone. However, there is too many of them in this case."

The civil official attendant was correct not to mention Hero Meiko here.

"Let us ask Hero Yuuki to deal with the Land King and also the monster clean-up while he's at it."

The civil official attendant doesn't think that Hero Yuuki could defeat the legendary class monster though he should be able to handle the small fry.

Hero Yuuki would probably fail, and then the four heroes would be forced to combine their powers.

By the civil official attendant's calculations, Seigi who's not good at fighting should start groping for a way to profit from something without doing much.

"Boo, it's always about Yuuki."

"Seigi, your powers aren't for defeating small fry. Yours is for the sake of exterminating demon lords."

She tightly hugs the complaining hero Seigi to make him waver.

As a youth in puberty with no experience about women, he absolutely has no way to resist the softness.



"Well, the guy can't read the mood and all, but he was the most helpful hero during the Divine Punishment uproar."

Thanks to him, they didn't have to dispatch scouts too far in dangerous missions, and since they could pin down the exact force needed to stop a stampede, they were able to efficiently deploy neither too many nor too few troops.

"Yuuki is also unusual for a hero, though not as much as Seigi."

"Unusual?"

"Yes, he's a magician type hero."

When Lady Ringrande and Princess Maryest were about to talk about the third hero, maids bringing in trays that let out sweet scent came into the room.

"They're presents from Sir Pendragon."

The maids set up tea and sweets on the table after Princess Maryest's personal maid said so.

"It's sweets especially made by Satou and all. Let's talk about heroes after having a taste."

"My? Didn't onee-sama like liquor more than sweets?"

Sera made a sarcastic remark at the humming Lady Ringrande.

"Sweets that Satou brought aren't like those all-about-sweet confectionery, I

love it you know?"

Lady Ringrande teased her little sister by putting a meaningful intonation on the 'love' part.

"With all these sweets, it would feel too dull to only talk about the immature heroes. We have this occasion after all, would you be willing to tell us the story about Sera-dono's and Sir Pendragon's beginning of love?"

Seeking for more sweet stories, princess Maryest who had stuffed her mouth with a spoonful of cake brought up the subject about Sera and Satou.

Behind his calm face supported by Poker Face skill, Satou is gearing up his gray brain cells to get him out of this predicament.

However, the excited eyes of *three* people informed him that there was no escaping this.

16-44. The Four Heroes (2)

※ This is not from Satou's perspective. Third person point of view.

"--Do you mind if we get back to talking about heroes?"

Satou, who was done telling the story of the time he met Sera after being pestered by the romance story-loving women, steered back to the topic at hand.

"Oh my, pardon me. I lost myself since your tale was so interesting. We were talking about Hero Yuuki next, were we not?"

"I think we were at the part about Yuuki being an unusual magician type hero."

Ringrande affirmed Maryest.

"By that do you mean, he's capable of using powerful magic like Maryest-sama?"

"I'm confident that I won't lose in my forte, lightning magic, but unfortunately, I'm completely outclassed in flame magic. However, since the hero is still inexperienced in spell control and precision, I suppose I still come out on top when it's against foes with powerful anti magic ability or someone strong in a one-on-one fight."

Maryest answered Satou's inquiry.

"Well, no magician is better at exterminating large swats of enemy than Yuuki though."

"That's just the powers granted by God Parion."

Hearing the two, Satou is recalled of his own Meteor Shower, and feels oddly sympathetic to the hero, thinking, "Must be hard to use."

"So what kind of person is this Hero Yuuki-sama?"

"He has made some self-righteous remarks, however, he's very eager to learn new things and extremely enthusiastic about training."

Maryest indirectly replied Satou's question with implications.

Satou himself felt like he got a grasp of Hero Yuuki's personality from her answer and nodded.



"What is this? Why's there so few monsters here?"

On board an airship floating above the small sand sea, Hero Yuuki grumbled to his attendants.

"A search by wind magicians also only turned up a few aggregations of monsters."

"Damn that useless Seigi."

With the grumbling Yuuki on board, the airship heads toward Sania Kingdom's capital in order to replenish its supply.

"--What the heck is that?"

At the front row of the noisy bridge, Hero Yuuki is looking at a dead body of a gigantic monster stuck at the capital's harbor.

The body is so huge, the golems that are currently dismantling it look like sesame seeds from afar.

"Meiko didn't come by here right?"

"Yes, that should be the case."

"No way Seigi did this either, guess there's still someone strong out there in this world."

Hero Yuuki grins.

Before long, a wingkin attendant who was tasked to gather info on the ground comes back.

"Give me your report, Michael."

Hero Yuuki haughtily gave his order without even a word of thanks to the attendant with colorful feathers.

"My name is Mieka."

"Yeah yeah, report."

Even while sighing at Hero Yuuki who kept calling him Michael no matter how often he corrected him, the wingkin attendant conveys the information he got to the hero and his cohorts.

"That is the dead body of an ancient monster called the 『Land King』 whom 『Ancient Dog-head King』 commanded during the age of myths."

"A mythical monster huh."

"The Devil God's Troops..."

The other attendants couldn't hide their surprises when they heard the report.

"I've read some myths about Land King myself. Ain't it a monster stronger than your average demon lord?"

The attendants affirmed Yuuki's question.

"Who killed it?"

"Shiga Kingdom's--"

"Hero Nanashi?"

The hero made a guess of someone capable of such a feat while the wingkin was answering.

"No, it's the Demon Lord Slayer, Earl Pendragon."

Hero Yuuki recalled that it was the name of the sexual fiend whom Meiko met at a cafe once.

"A Japanese who's pretending to be Arthur huh... Ow, my side."

Even though he's never met him before, Hero Yuuki is holding a bizarre rivalry with the demon lord slayer.

"--Huuh? Dontcha think that thing just moved?"

A section of the Land King moved before Hero Yuuki's eyes.

Voices can't reach this far away, but the golems and laborers who were dismantling the body are scurrying away in all directions as the moving dead body begins smashing buildings.

"Undead Land King?"

Immediately after the sound of crushed buildings reached him, Hero Yuuki muttered the result of [Analyze] skill he got from God Parion.

"Did someone turned it into an undead or somethin'?"

"It was probably the demon's work."

Hero Yuuki licks his lips when he hears the attendant's reply.

"I want to test my magic on it."

"You must not, Yuuki."

"Evacuate all the guys below."

Hero Yuuki brushed off the attendant's warning and went to the deck.

"Please at least wait until the airship gets to the flank."

"Hurry up."

Hero Yuuki draws out the holy sword Laevateinn he took from his [Inventory].

"Buff me with support magic. Not the defensive ones. Just stuff that power up magic. Then put all your remaining mana into mine."

The attendants cast buff magic on the hero while the airship goes around to the Undead Land King's flank.

"Let's do this, full power--hey you guys, put some spirits into it!"

Hero Yuuki shouted at the attendants standing by behind him.

They're numerous. Unlike with other heroes, many are of level 30.

"Household Tuning (Everyone to me)."

Hero Yuuki's body is wrapped in blue light which then connects to the attendants behind him.

The attendants let out voices of agony.

That light also extends toward the main engine of the airship, absorbing an enormous amount of mana.

"Unlimited Range (Anywhere no matter how far)."

Once again, blue light wraps Hero Yuuki and holy sword Laevateinn that he holds up high.

Hero Yuuki can't be stopped even by the now slowly gliding airship.

"Romantic Explosion (Glory along with my name)."

Third blue light wraps around Hero Yuuki.

It's an intense flame-like light.

The attendants behind Hero Yuuki have fallen down on the deck.

"<<INCINERATE>> Laevateinn!"

A red flame blowing up toward the sky rises from the holy sword Laevateinn

once he read aloud its holy verse.

Red and blue flames combine together into an abominable purple flame that scorches heavens.

"--EAAAAAAAAAT THIIIIIIIIIS!"

With the swing of the sword, the purple explosive flame violently rushes forward.

That flame swallow the Land King's body that was far outside the normal range in the distance, sinking it into the depth of hellfire.

"Kukukuku, I'm strong. My magic blow away even mythical monsters."

While illuminated by the burning light of red and blue flame, Hero Yuuki is laughing out loudly on his knee as he clings to his holy sword on the deck.

Light of ecstasy dwells in his languid sunk eyes.

Perhaps, the spellcaster that had turned Land King into an undead was inexperienced as the Undead Land King's defensive power and health were far below its living state's, yet it was still a monster that couldn't be defeated by ordinary magic.

The firepower of the flame the Hero unleashed just now probably surpasses even the forbidden spell of flame magic, [<<White Inferno>>].



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"His desires for acknowledgment might be a bit stronger than others, but well, he's generally a good kid. His tendency to get hasty is not unlike Meiko, but I'm sure it can be fixed so long others care for it."

Ringrande didn't say out loud whom did she compare him to, but everyone here seemingly correctly guessed who it was.

"Initially he went around randomly spewing flames everywhere like a pyromaniac, but once we put him with some reliable attendants, he's gotten a better."

Satou thought that Hero Seigi also had some dependable attendants with him.

"I'm not that well acquainted with the last hero, Fuu."

"I remember him being a shy kid who couldn't hold conversations well."

Hero Fuu has trouble communicating, Satou made a mental note.

"His ability was of scouting type, yet for some reason, he tried really hard to learn magic didn't he?"

"Yes, his aptitudes for elemental magic were apparently not good, but he is skilled in Sou--Summoning magic."

Satou noticed that Maryest was going to say [Soul Magic] and corrected herself, but he wasn't going to pursue it further.



"Kehya, kehya kehya kehya."

Laughing like convulsing in a dim temple-like place, was the [Hero of Parion] Fuu who should not be in such a place.

"Our regal familiars, Vampire Knights, have no equal!"

Before Hero Fuu's line of sight are Vampire Knights who are fighting without baring anything as if to brag their beautiful bodies.

They're fighting monsters summoned by Hero Fuu.

Even though he's alone here, he seems to have the habit to refer himself with 'we' and 'our'.

The way he could suddenly scream out loud in between his usual blurred voice is probably another habit of Hero Fuu.

"Our level went up once again. And now, recycle of dead monsters--"

Hero Fuu stares at the corpses suspiciously, then the corpses get revived into undeads.

It must be the work of Soul Magic [Animate Undead] cast without a chant.

"--Second Round. Go vanquish them again."

As ordered, the Vampire Knights jump on the monsters that were revived as undeads.

"One platoon of level 50 Vampire Knights should be done by today's end after another 100 sets."

While muttering to himself, Hero Fuu summoned more monsters and offered their neck on the Vampire Knights.

"We will raise our level once a platoon of level 50 Vampire Knight is complete."

A bracelet made from Blue Crystal is equipped on the kehya kehya-ing Hero Fuu.

"We have plenty of mana so long this bracelet is on us."

It's a terminal device bracelet for City Core that originally shouldn't have fallen onto a hero's hand.

"Half of the vast amount of Saga Empire's mana is for us to freely use at will."

Hero Fuu made a complacent smile and then muttered to himself, "We will create an invincible army."

"Fuu-han, you there?"

Hero Fuu's heart almost jumped out of his mouth when he heard someone's voice from an empty space.

"...Yea."

Hero Fuu was relieved when he turned around and saw a familiar face.

"Oh it's you."

Hero Fuu muttered very quietly.

He timidly looks up at the other party.

"Another day, 'nother zombie paradise here, I see."

"D-D-Do not get it wrong! They're un-undeads, not zombie."

He gets so enraged, it's like he's a different person.

Hero Fuu's boiling point seems to be unexpectedly low.

"Oh scary, scary. Calm down, 'k."

To Hero Fuu, this someone with fake Kansai dialect looks like he's provoking him instead.

"A-a-as long you understand."

"I'm here to fetch another pots or dozen of Vampire Mosquitos."

This someone went for the big earthenware pots lined up at the corner of the room after amusingly watching Hero Fuu who was putting up a bravado.

"D-do as you like."

"What's this? There's only, like, three pots here."

"I-is it not enough? B-but three should be plentiful isn't it? Dunno if you're using it as an ingredient for magic potion or something--"

Hero Fuu said so like he was complaining to the guy for obstructing his quest to level up.

"Whaddya say?"

"Hiiiiii"

Hero Fuu retreated back with a pale face from the deep voice.

"Achaa, I was just checkin' cos' I didn't hear ya the first time, see. Don't get cold feet on me now."

"I-I did not."

Hero Fuu tried to bluff as best as he could while trembling, but it didn't work on the opponent as he waved his fluttering hands.

"Riight. Please prepare a dozen pots by next week, 'k. An epidemic is spreading at the western part of the continent, ya see. Can neva' get enough of medicines."

"I-I got it. I'll make them."

"Pleaseee. You can use as much mana as you want, but be careful 'bout the cracks on Yuika-chan's barrier when yer' circulating mana, yea. You gotta make sure to hold back cause it's an old barrier."

"N-no need to remind me, that again."

Hero Fuu begrudgingly nodded while whispering "Who the heck even is Yuika" inside his mouth.

"Well then, keep at it, yea."

The guy disappeared in thin air like when he first came.

"...Damn fake Kansai dialect."

Hero Fuu mouthed the guy off the moment he was sure the guy had been gone for good.

Hero Fuu's back is drenched in sweat.

Even for Hero Fuu who excels in scouting--or to be more exact, assassination, it was someone whom he could not take lightly of.



"--I think that should cover it?"

"Yep."

Ringrande gave her confirmation to Maryest.

"Well, they can be quite immature, but they're all good kids."

Ringrande closed the topic with that.

"By the way, just the other day, Arisa who was together with Mito-sama and Sistina-dono came here and bragged about the new
dresses

they get you to commission for them--"

Satou thought, "That's unusual even for Arisa."

"My apologies, she's still a kid after all."

"Ufufu, I don't mind about such things. Their dresses were so wonderful, it made me long for one myself."

Maryest looks up at Satou with a smile full of implications.

"Then, I shall ask Arisa to place an order for Maryest-sama's dress too."

"Sa-Satou-san!"

Sera tried to cut in Satou who easily made the promise without thinking, but she kept her silent when Satou asked her back, "Is there anything wrong?"

It appears that Sera doesn't intend to poke the bush herself.

"Oh my, sorry to make it look like I'm imposing on you."

"Satou. Just Mary?"

"Ane-sama!"

Sera stood up from her seat to hear her elder sister's joke.

"What's the matter Sera? Are you going to leave me out, just me?"

When Ringrande whispered, "Left all alone, I might just blurt out something out of loneliness", Sera went completely silent.

"Can I? Satou."

"Of course, Ringrande-sama will get hers too."

Satou willingly consented to Ringrande who took the opportunity to demand for one.

"Oh my? Are you sure?"

"Yes. Please think of it as an apology for the trouble Arisa and the others have caused, I haven't showed you my appreciations for the info this time either."

"Was such little info good enough?"

Satou affirmed, "But of course", to reply the giggling Maryest.

"I shall look forward to it with anticipation."

"Me too, I can't wait."

Looking at the two's smiles, Satou thought an off-the-mark impression to himself, "Were the dresses look that good?"

It was not until later that he realized the meaning of their words--.



"I'm back~, I've gone and asked Sete about it."

"Thank you Mito. You're a great help."

Hikaru who had even gone to the king (Sete) and the prime minister in her investigation got back before Satou and Sera who were relaxing at the Solitary Island Palace.

"Apparently they're treating Hero Seigi like a patrol plane."

"Is he like a wide-range detector for demons?"

"Yup, something like that. And once he found a demon, Hero Yuuki would be deployed and then demolish it from afar."

The info from Shiga Kingdom's intelligence division is similar to the one Satou heard from Maryest, but there are some differences due to the difference in their positions.

"But since Hero Yuuki's range is pretty expansive, cities and the populaces often suffer collateral damage whenever he does it near a city, so he's not really liked."

Maryest said that Yuuki has improved, but according to the intelligence division's info, even Saga Empire is at their wit's end dealing with him.

"Hero Meiko is said to be visiting countries that suffered damages by monsters, but in reality it seems like she's been making troubles at the places she's visiting."

She challenged strong knights and warriors whenever she went, and beat them all to a pulp.

"And this time she's going to Dragg Kingdom probably cause she wants to challenge the Guardian Dragon of the kingdom, don't you think?"

Satou smiled wryly while saying, "That's so like that battle junkie Meiko."

"Hero Fuu is apparently shutting himself in the Imperial Capital, so not much info about him. Unlike with the other heroes, apparently he went to Hero Dungeon once, got frightened, and refused to go back."

"Oh that's plenty already."

It's okay as long as he's harmless, said Satou to Mito.

"For the time being, could you continue gathering info involving heroes?"

"Un, I think that's a good idea. Also, I'm going to tell Sete to ask Saga Empire to hold the rein tighter on Hero Yuuki."

"Yeah, I'm counting on you."

Mito seemed happy to have Satou depending on her, she left after replying,

"Leave it to me!"

Zena who passed by her as she entered the room went to Satou while finding the frolic Mito unusual.

"Satou-san, the airship has arrived at Pier Rock."

"Ah thanks. Zena-san."

Satou stands up once he hears that.

"Satou-san, who will be going with you this time?"

"This one seems like it will get dangerous, so I'll take only Liza with me. She should be able to deal with any situation after all."

Jealousy welled up from within Zena and Sera at Liza who got Satou's stamp of approval, but recalling that Liza doesn't harbor feelings toward the opposite sex on Satou, they extinguished their jealousy.

"Zena-san, sorry but could you call Liza here? I think she's testing the flight exoskeleton while sparring with Heiron in the desert sub-space."

"I understand."

Tasked by Satou, Zena heads toward the desert sub-space gate.

"Now then, I'm heading off. I'll try to finish the trial by today."

Satou turns around as he prepares to leave after saying that to Sera who's left alone in the living room.

"Satou-san, please don't let your guard down. God Zaikuon is often considered a foolish god who didn't know his own limit and went on to challenge the dragon god, however, I don't think an existence like god would take actions without thinking the consequences."

Satou stops in his track and turns around at the unexpected words from Sera.

"In other words, the act of picking a reckless fight itself may have meaning?"

"Yes, I know not what that is, but perhaps there was some kind of merit for God Zaikuon to embrace death once."

"Got it. I'll keep Sera's warning on my mind as I face God Zaikuon."

Satou went through the gate connected to the airship after saying that to the anxious Sera.

※ Next update is planned for around 4/29 (there's a chance it may get delayed for several days)

※【Attention】 The flashbacks about Heroes are not necessarily the content Maryest told Satou (especially in Hero Fuu's case)

16-45. Pier Rock Kingdom, Oblation Contest (1)

Satou here. I love watching sport matches, but I'm not good with martial art matches that involve blood. It's not because I dislike blood, but more because I don't like painful sensations I get from watching it. I love bloodless matches like Judo though.



"This is quite a huge arena isn't it, Master."

Liza is looking over an arena made of ocher colored stones from the audience seat.

This arena is apparently a historical structure magically made in the ages of Furu Empire.

Liza and I headed straight to the Zaikuon Main Temple the instance we arrived at Pier Rock, but since the only Zaikuon miko who had Oracle skill was participating in a tournament at the arena, the ritual is postponed until after her matches are over.

Thus, I went with Liza to see the crowded tournament and also to kill times.

"Huge~?"

"It's really really pig nanodesu."

<TLN: No, it's not a typo.>

Tama and Pochi showed up like poof.

Looks like they got here, the audience seat, from the airship's gate through Tama's ninjutsu.

Judging from the times, they must be on lunch break.

『Show 'em the strength of [Warriors of Garleon]!』

『Don't ya dare lose to Garleon temple followers! Make it known that [Holy Warriors of Zaikuon] are the strongest eveeeeer!』

Cheers erupted from the audience.

The tournament this time appears to also serves as an oblation contest, all the players belong in teams bearing their god's names and they're donning mantles and armor bearing the holy marks.

There seem to be bets that also serve as almsgiving, lots of bookmakers bearing the holy marks loiter around.

"The players for the next match have made their entrance it seems."

Garleon team is a pair of a giant man holding a huge two-handed battle axe, and an old man with a long sword. Both are of upper level 30s, none carries a shield.

Zaikuon team has a handsome young male temple knight equipped with a small shield and a one-handed sword, and a priestess holding a long mace that looks like an iron club along with a round shield. The temple knight is level 29

while the priestess is level 40, rather unbalanced.

"That priestess seems to be quite the fighter."

Liza looks at the priestess.

"Muscles~?"

"Muki muki nanodesu."

<TLN: Onomatopoeia for 'very buffed'.>

Tama and Pochi made their opinions known while posing like body builders, undoubtedly taught by Arisa.

These two and their soft squishy builds won't look muki muki no matter what they do.

Just as the two said, this priestess has a muscular build that wouldn't look out of place for the Supreme Ruler of the Century's End.

<TLN: Fist of the North Star's references.>

Not sure if it can be considered a praise for a woman, but she has this reliable aura that would fit the word [Rock] most.

She seems to come from Norooku Kingdom, Princess Mitia who's staying at the labyrinth city might know about her.

"--However, is that priestess really the miko we're looking for?"

"Yep, looks like it."

Liza's face looks like she finds it hard to believe.

She's wearing priestess uniform instead of miko's, however, my AR readings show that she has the [Oracle] skill.

Liza must be bewildered since she's the first of this type among all the miko we've met so far starting from Sera.

『By the honorable name of Zaikuon, may his grace be with holy warrior Senuma.』

My Attentive Ears skill picked up the Rock Miko reciting something as she gestured a holy mark sign.

Yellow light overflow out of the temple knight's golden circlet.

That's--similar to the [Super Strength] state of Lady Karina granted by Raka.

"It began~"

"It seems the battle axe user will fight the priest, and the long sword old man will fight the temple knight."

"They're not cooperating together nodesu?"

Apparently, it's going to be a one-on-one fight even though each team consists of a pair.

The temple knight rushed out at superhuman speed and made a head start over the long sword old man.

"Defensive fight~"

"Ojii-chan, do your best nanodesu!"

"The temple knight's attacks are sharp and heavy, but there is no experience behind them. He would create an opening if it keeps up--"

Liza stopped her speech midway.

Just as she's suspected, the long sword old man made a clean hit on the defenseless flank of the temple knight.

But the reason why Liza stopped was not because of that, but the results.

"Just like Karina~?"

"Small shields made of yellow light came out nodesuyo."

As Tama and Pochi said, small shields made of yellow light blocked the long sword old man's attack.

According to AR readings, the golden circlet the temple knight is wearing seems to be a divine treasure of God Zaikuon, called [Zaikukaan].

Thanks to that divine treasure, he's able to match or even surpass the more skilled old man.

"NUOOOOOOO!"

Slightly later, the battle axe man rushed toward the Rock Miko and swung

down his axe with the momentum.

Looks like the battle axe man used [Great Strength] skill while the Rock Miko used [Body Reinforcement] skill.

"Full of openings~?"

"She went under the axe, going for Achilles Hunter nodesu!"

Tama and Pochi cheered on the Rock Miko while raising their fists overhead.

Before our view, the Rock Miko hit the battle axe man's arm while blocking his axe with her round shield.

"Her attacks are simple but steady."

"Slow and steady~"

"Axe's movements are getting squeaky nodesu."

The Rock Miko made use of the fleeting chance when the battle axe man grimaced and swung her mace toward the battle axe man's temple.

The battle axe man sacrificed his arm to block the mace and kicked back at her.

The Rock Miko blocked his kick with her legs.

"Grappling match nanodesu!"

"Not like Karina~?"

"Karina-sama does it by continuously moving without stopping, but for them it's a clash between muscle-armored bodies."

The fight between these two kinda reminds me of pro-wrestling.

After some painful looking exchanges, the Rock Miko snatched away the victory.

The Rock Miko who gallantly wiped her nose off of blood is looking at her comrade seriously.

"The temple knight seems to be at a disadvantage now."

"Too many wasted movements~?"

"Ojii-chan is moving so wonderfully wondrous nanodesu."

The temple knight has exhausted his mana and is gasping for breath, but he's unscathed.

On the other hand, even though the long sword old man is fiercely attacking the temple knight with a composed looking face, I know from AR readings that he's also quite exhausted himself.

There are cuts dyed in red on the old man's surcoat, put over his armor, here and there.

"Surprise attack~"

"He dodged it nodesu!"

The long sword old man smoothly evaded the Rock Miko's mace who rushed on him from behind.

The temple knight tried to slash at the old man's flank, but that opening was a trap, as the old man parried the temple knight's sword and guided it toward the Rock Miko instead.

The Rock Miko turned her neck and managed to dodge the temple knight's

sword, but she was forced to receive the temple knight whose back was kicked by the old man.

"Oh no~"

"They're in a pinch nanodesu!"

As the old man was going to stab the temple knight's back with his long sword, the Rock Miko used her body to block it instead.

The long sword pierced her body but she tightened her muscles to stop the thrust.

The temple knight's sword was going for long sword old man.

The old man let go of his long sword and blocked the temple knight's sword with his gauntlets.

Those gauntlets seem to be defensive type magic tools.

『Do not interfere!』

The Rock Miko who had thrown away the long sword was stopped by the temple knight when she tried to help him.

And then the temple knight put all his body weight on the sword to push down the old knight in an attempt to end the fight.

"Auch."

"Shoddy nanodesu."

"It cannot be helped. There is no way to evade that."

When they were close enough their foreheads could collide, the old man exploded his gauntlet decorations to shot out small pellets.

Even the yellow light shields couldn't block them all, perhaps because the explosion was too close, the temple knight staggered as he got hit by some of the pellets.

The old man snatched away the temple knight's sword and swung it toward its former owner.

"Tackle~"

"Nice assist nanodesu."

The Rock Miko shoulder rammed the old man and immediately got away from him using the recoil, before she swung around her long mace at him.

The old man managed to handle it for a few swings, but he couldn't endure the Rock Miko's strength as his sword got thrown off of his hand, cornered, he declared his loss.

Once the match was over, the Rock Miko began to chant in order to heal the temple knight.

"Failed~?"

"Fanburu nanodesu."

Looks like she failed to cast the healing spell.

The Rock Miko apologized to the temple knight while looking sorry, but he pushed her aside and went to the waiting room without even a hint of anger.

He must feel awkward losing after he tried to finish the match by himself.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



The next match was between [Magic Warriors of Karion] and [Love Warriors of Tenion].

There was nothing of note in the match itself besides their eye-catching names, so we're watching while enjoying the piping hot potatoes we bought on a stall along the way to the arena.

Even though Tama and Pochi must have got their lunch in the school before coming here, their appetites are still in full swing.

While watching over the two who were munching on the potatoes, I gave a bite myself.

Simple saltiness. People prefer steamed potato in this country, since it's a bit cold here.

The potato wasn't too good itself, so I cut it up and put some butter in.

Nice aroma of butter melting in the hot potato pervaded in the audience seat.

"Très Bien~?"

"It must be, must be, super good nanodesu."

I put butter on the potatoes the two held out to me as their tails fluttered around.

"Delishas~"

"Blifss~ nanodesu."

"This is tasty."

I don't think it's that good, but the three look blissful like they've just tasted some first-rate cooking.

I watch the match while biting on the buttered potato.

This reminds me of the [Jaga Butter] eaten during Hokkaido winter festival somehow.

In the end, [Magic Warriors of Karion] won the match without anything worthy to point out.

"Seems like the next match is between 『Beast Warrior of Parion』 and 『Sun Warriors of Heraruon』."

I told the info I heard from Attentive Ears to the beastkin girls.

"Rusus~?"

"And Fifi too nodesu."

Tama's tail stood upright while Pochi's tail swung around buzzingly when [Beast Warriors of Parion]--tigerear-kin Rusus and the wolfear-kin Fifi entered the arena.

I knew that these girls were in this arena from my Menu, but I never thought that these two, who were attendants of the previous Saga Hero, would participate in the contest.

I don't find it odd considering these two are battle junkies though.

Once the match began, [Beast Warriors of Parion] quickly reigned victorious in a one sided match.

The level gaps are just too big, and most importantly, the experience they've accumulated across many harsh battlefields along with Hero Hayato cannot be compared to other warriors'.

"Rusus strong~"

"Fifi was really strong too nodesu."

"The Sun Warriors weren't too bad themselves, but those two are just on a whole different level."

The beastkin girls' eyes were glimmering, as if saying that they want to fight them instead.

While waiting for the semifinal, we warm ourselves with consommé soup I brought over and listened to Tama and Pochi about their school life.



"Next is a match between 『Beast Warriors of Parion』 and 『Holy Warriors of Zaikuon』 it seems."

Rusus and Fifi are going to fight without a rest, but if I had to say, [Holy Warriors of Zaikuon] look more fatigued instead.

The match earlier was a one-sided game after all.

『By the honorable name of Zaikuon, may his grace be with holy warrior Senuma.』

The Rock Miko put the temple knight into [Super Strength] state with the same ritual as before.

Looks like the temple knight is going to use a great sword this time.

『Attendants who serve upon Hero of Parion!』

The temple knight closed in on Rusus at high speed.

『I am Holy Warrior Senuma! The one who will defeat you!』

Rusus blocked the sweeping great sword with her palm.

I think she's using the def up skill [Vajra], but that's still quite reckless of her.

『Who's going to defeat who again?』

Rusus showed a ferocious smile while tightly gripping the temple knight's great sword.

The temple knight is frantically trying to pull the great sword off of her.

『Get lost』

The temple knight lost his footings when Rusus let go of his great sword, then she lightly kicked his stomach, blowing him away.

Rusus chased after him faster than the temple knight's earlier with Flickering Movement and attempted to land another hit on him, but the Rock Miko blocked her attack using the long mace.

『Oh you're pretty good--』

Rusus praised the Rock Miko.

『--But still not good enough.』

Rusus twisted her wrist and the Rock Miko's long mace got flung away from her hand.

『WOOOOOO!』

The temple knight swings down his great sword toward Rusus, on a trajectory that would cut the Rock Miko along with her.

『At least you've got guts--』

Rusus kicked away the Rock Miko to get her away from the great sword, then she lightly swung her sword, separating the great sword from the temple knight's hand.

Looks like she cut the temple knight's wrist in that instant.

"Purara~n?"

"It's gonna fall off nanodesu."

Tama chased the swaying wrist with her eyes, Pochi covered her face while looking pained.

"--Why?"

Liza muttered as she looked at the Rock Miko.

The miko ignored her long mace lying on the ground, and chanted holy magic toward the kneeling temple knight.

Rusus is looking at them without attacking.

Doesn't seem like Fifi has moved an inch since the beginning of the match.

It seemed the Rock Miko used a mid-level healing magic, the temple knight's wrist managed to get attached back.

『--Still wanna go at it?』

『No, this is our loss.』

The Rock Miko shook her head at Rusus's inquiry.

『Oy! I can still fight! I, holy warrior of Zaikuon, Senuma-sama--』

The temple knight was going to object the Rock Miko, but Fifi zeroed in on him in an instant with Flickering Movement and knocked him out in one hit.

"Now then, looks like the miko is done with the contest, let's go to the temple after greeting Rusus and Fifi. Tama, and Pochi, wanna see them?"

"Aye!"

"Yes nanodesu!"

The other semifinal was [Force Warriors of Urion] vs [Magic Warriors of Karion], but since it didn't seem like it'd be interesting judging from their last match, we turned our back without any hesitation and went straight to the waiting room.

16–46. Trial of Zaikuon (1)

Satou here. People who cannot explain well aren't exactly unusual, but even though I could tolerate clients who expect you to take a guess from their abridged explanations, I really can't handle those who don't even understand themselves that they actually want you to do that.



“Rusus~”

“Fifi nanodesu!”

Tama and Pochi opened the door and went inside in high spirits.

“Oh, ain't it the lil' girls from Satou's place!”

“Ou! You guys were here too huh!”

The former attendants of previous hero Hayato, Rusus and Fifi received the jumping Tama and Pochi while laughing.

I thought they wouldn't accept a visitation right after their match, but the two gladly did.

“It's nice to see you two again.”

“Yo! Satou!”

“And spear ane-chan, you're here too!”

The two cheerfully stepped up to us while Pochi and Tama were hanging on their necks like Hawaiian leis. Pochi and Tama are frolic as they sway around while saying, “Buraa~n.”

“You should have come out in the arena since you were already here and all.”

“We'd definitely have an even more fun match if you guys were fighting.”

I sat down on the seat the two offered as they said something that didn't sound like a lip service.

Liza fetched the hanging Tama and Pochi, and they changed their forms to play corpses under Liza's arms.

“Cakes that Satou brought are really good as always.”

“Bring us some meat the next time you're here ok. That karaage and kakuni

stuff you gave us back then were real nice.”

While renewing old friendship with the two who had begun to heartily chomp down on the cake I brought, I tried asking them about the four heroes.

“We only know Meiko and Seigi though.”

“Yuki and Hikutsu was it? Didn’t Rin and Mary take care of the magician type guys?”

Looks like they don’t even remember the explosive flame Hero Yuuki’s and the discreet Hero Fuu’s names.

“Meiko is fun, but she’s got no stamina and drops down pretty quickly.”

“Seigi is weak, but he can find monster nests real fast, so it’s nice to take him along in a hunt.”

Feels like the two have comparatively good opinions on Meiko and Seigi.

“Seigi kept looking at our breasts and butts though, that was funny.”

“And then he immediately looked away every time we noticed.”

...Seigi.

Ignoring the talk about a young man in puberty, I throw a question to Rusus and Fifi.

“So you weren’t going to be Hero Meiko or Hero Seigi’s attendants?”

“Hmm, nah, nope.”

“We’re not even gonna last three days if we have to attend some haughty little girl and an ero brat.”

“Right right. Meiko is haughty by nature, Seigi tends to say some incomprehensible stuff seriously then have this triumphant look on his face, I’d probably whack him before I noticed.”

“They can be haughty all they want if they’re as stupidly strong as Hayato was.”

It seems like Rusus and Fifi will only abide by those who are stronger than them.

“We don’t mind becoming your attendants if you win against us, Satou?”

“Yep yep, mistresses or retainers are nice too.”

“Ah yeah, the village chief told us to give birth or something.”

Please drop that kind of talk.

“Well, let’s talk more about that if you could 『Win against us』.”

“Yep yep, hold yer’ horses till then.”

“Well then, looks like I’d have to train harder with my sword.”

I politely dealt with them and then return to the topic at hand.

“So instead of becoming their attendants, you two journeyed to the continent west?”

“Pretty much.”

They must have found high-ranking nobles who tried to persistently court them into becoming their subordinates annoying.

“Oh yeah—Satou, do you know about vampires?”

“Yes, I’ve had a fight with one once, so I know a bit about them.”

Even while feeling surprised at the sudden turn of topics, I nodded while recalling the vampire princess Semeri that I fought and the reincarnated true ancestor Ban on Selbira’s Labyrinth Lower Layer.

“Those guys showed up at the neighboring country y’see.”

“It was amazing ya know? It was an army of Blood Stalkers and Vampire Slaves led by Vampires, with enough rank to consume a city whole.”

“Well, they were no match for us, but their leader, a Vampire Lord was pretty tough.”

“Great~?”

“That’s super amazing nodesu! Pochi wants to fight one too!”

Hearing Rusus and Fifi’s stories, Tama and Pochi stood up on the sofa with sparkling eyes.

And of course, it ended up with Liza scolding them and them quickly shifting into the reflection pose.

“Where did those vampires come from?”

“I mean it’s far away from the Bloodsucking Labyrinth, they were probs monster who were hiding in a nearby monster domain or something?”

Apparently the two only took care of the vampires, and didn’t know what happened afterward.

“That was when a patrolling monster-hunting warship from Saga Empire passed above us, so we left all the clean-up to them.”

I feel that’s quite a convenient coincidence, but there was probably an oracle if it was a city-destroying disaster, it wouldn’t be strange if they were deployed for relief.

According to Rusus, about seven Saga Empire warships are patrolling around the neighborhood of the small countries on the continental west, it’s not that rare for them to receive an SOS signal and come to the rescue.

“But with that many vampires appearing, wouldn’t that deal a huge blow on that country?”

“Yep, exactly. The royal capital was half destroyed, and about two towns were annihilated.”

“Apparently, some refugee even flowed to this country too.”

That’s quite a huge damage.

“Oh don’t make that face.”

“Yep yep. Saga Empire has dispatched their relief unit to that country, they should be distributing food and stuff right about now.”

If there’s already relief groups helping them, I suppose I don’t have to stick my nose into it?

“More importantly—”

Rusus and Fifi, who perceived a serious aura coming from me, cheerfully changed the topic to about how we would have fought in the matches we watched.

“Rush up like fwoosh, then prick out like zubaban nodesu!”

“They ain’t gonna let you come near them.”

“No worries nanodesu! Pochi is quick on her feet nodesuyo!”

“Lurk around like nyunnyun, then nyururu~ headhunting nyan.”

“Oh scary, headhunting’s scary.”

“Headhunting is the basic of ninja~?”

Everyone seems to be having fun with the new topic.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

『—It's all your fault!』

The harmonious atmosphere was destroyed by a shout from outside the room.

Looks like some people are quarrellings in the passage.

Tama and Pochi look up at me anxiously, thus I pat their heads.

According to Map info, they seem to be the [Holy Warriors of Zaikuon] Rusus and Fifi beat earlier.

From what I can gather from the coming voices, the temple knight Senuma is unilaterally disparaging his miko partner.

“I'll give them a bit of warning.”

Please at least pick the place if you want to quarrel.

『Those parion women won because you surrendered!』

The voice of a man assaulted my ears the moment I opened the door. Apparently this guy completely shelved the fact that he was the reason for her surrender.

『I am the [Holy Warrior of Zaikuon], who could even be considered as God's Apostle! Yet I have to taste defeat at the hands of mere attendants of hero, all because of you!』

At the passage, in the nearest corner, I found the miko who fits the words [Man among Men] and [Rock], and a handsome young man overflowing with the aura of small fry.

Even while I was walking toward them, the hysteric voice continued to verbally abuse the rock miko's poor healing magic and her muscular body.

“You're bothering the neighborhood, could you please leave it at that?”

“Who the hell are you?”

The temple knight seemed to be offended by my warning, he trotted toward me and attempted to grab my neck with his hand.

Then he revolved once in the air.

“Shrike Drop~?”

At the opposite direction of Tama who struck her signature pose below me, the temple knight had fainted after hitting his head on the concrete, still with a dumbfounded expression on his face.

I think that move earlier was Air Throw instead of Shrike Drop, but now's not the time to point out such a trivial stuff.

“Se-Senuma!”

The rock miko looks after the temple knight with a worried expression. Even though she had just been excessively disparaged, her figure nursing the temple knight is overflowing with affection.

“What's this, ain't you the Zaikuon guys from earlier.”

Rusus and Fifi who were looking here from the room's door came. Along with Liza and Pochi of course.

“Hey, I think you'd better learn how to choose a man.”

“Yep yep, a man is not about his face. But his strength.”

Rusus and Fifi gave their advices to the rock miko. For some reason, below them, Tama and Pochi are making an appeal by striking the bodybuilder poses from the arena earlier with their soft squishy bodies, cute.

“I-It's not like I yearn for Senuma-dono's.... It's just, we were raised together like siblings since we were little so...”

“Ooh, childhood friends eh, nice.”

“So like, he's been protecting you since childhood?”

“No, it's me who's...”

While grinning wide, Rusus and Fifi listen attentively to the rock miko who's blushing like a maiden.

It appears that these two like to talk about love story too.

The rock miko's love story continued on until after a priest from the main temple came looking for her.



<#update1>

”—There sure is a lot of homeless people here.”

“Yes. Many of them also look exhausted.”

I caught sights of lots of dirtyish people sitting in back alleys and under overhang roofs on our way to the main temple with the priest and the rock miko.

They must be the refugees that came from the neighboring country that Rusus and Fifi mentioned.

“Does the temple not do anything to help the refugees?”

“Oh, of course we do. We offer food and places to protect from rains and winds to believers of God Zaikuon who do labor service.”

The priest affirmed my question.

Looks like it’s exclusive to their believers after all.

“Unfortunately, Zaikuon Temple cannot afford to give aid indiscriminately free of charge.”

“Until God Zaikuon has regained his powers, we too are on the side of those who hang on the goodwill of countries and people...”

Rock miko and the priest told me that.

I’ll give lots of foodstuff-related donations to Zaikuon Main Temple and every other temple once the trial is over.

We arrived at Zaikuon Main Temple while I was considering that.

This building must have been a solemn building originally, but due to deteriorations and cracks here and there, it kinda looks shabby somehow.

“It’s of grave importance to mend this temple, but we cannot possibly work on it for the time being.”

The priest seemingly noticed my line of sight as he said that in frustration. The fact that he continues to have faith despite in this situation where they cannot use holy magic due to the demise of their god, is a proof of his devotion. I’m glad he hasn’t been warped like the chubby priest at Seryuu City.



『—O God. God whom we revere.』

The rock miko who's changed into miko outfit progresses the ceremony.
The miko outfit surprisingly fits the muscular rock miko.

Responding to the rock miko's call, a bright yellow light came down from the heavens.

The novelty has worn off since this is my fifth ceremony already.

The miko's stern face turned loose.
She's entered the trance state.

『Ye foolish one who dares to challenge my trial.』

Inorganic voice of a man echoed in my mind.
This seems to be God Zaikuon's voice.

『—Fight.』

Whom should I fight?
Don't tell me, do I have to fight God Zaikuon himself?

Judging from Arisa's fight with him, it's not like he can't be beaten, but I'd feel sorry for the reincarnated person Kei who was also a fake apostle of God Zaikuon if he died again, so I'd like to avoid it if possible.

<#update2>
—Oops.

There's a filter to prevent my thoughts from leaking out through the mind magic [Mind Connection Advance] I'm using right now, but the other party is still a god.
There's no guarantee that the filter won't be broken through, I should stop with disrespectful thoughts.

『That is not a bad idea, however—』

The scenery before my eyes changed while he was going to say my opponent.
—White space.

It looks similar to the World of Miniature Garden that Goblin Princess Yuika created in the labyrinth's lower layer.

Looking at my Map, I'm met with [Map Does not Exist in this Space] indication.

『Reign victorious over three fights.』

God Zaikuon's voice disappeared after telling me that.

Thud, I turned around hearing that sound and saw that the rock miko had fallen down on the white ground.

For now, I take out a bed from Storage through Item Box and let her rest on it.

Now then, wonder how should I fight?

16-47. Trial of Zaikuon (2)

※ 16-46 has been slightly revised. There is no problem even if you don't read it, but do have a look if you're curious.

<TLN: Previous Chapter has been updated with the revision. Search through the updated parts by searching '#update' keyword on your browser.>

Satou here. Games these days are designed with user friendliness in mind, but I feel that lots of games in the olden days didn't have good tutorials. It's fun to do trial and error, but it kinda feels like lots of those games simply couldn't be bothered to explain stuff.



--Oh."

In the white space where I was taken to by God Zaikuon, a halo around my circumference, and then it turned into a black line the moment it touched the ground.

It's a circle of around 500 meters in diameter.

Along with that, the white space has become dimly colored, it's possible to distinguish the ground and the ceiling now.

It still feels like I'm floating on clouds though.

"I guess that's my opponent?"

A small cube appeared about 100 meters away from me.

The cube transformed with click-clack sounds while turning bigger, and eventually formed a humanoid shape. Its height is about 3 meters.

My AR reading show that it's [UNKNOWN], probably an apostle of God Zaikuon.

『Fight with my apostle, reign victorious.』

A dignified voice came from behind me.

The rock miko is the owner of that voice.

But she seems a bit weird.

She has absolutely no expressions on her face, and seems lifeless as if she's a marionette.

According to AR reading, she's in [Divine Possession] state.

It seems to be the next stage of the trance state she was in during the ceremony.

『What would the winning conditions be?』

『Defeat apostle. Go out of circle not. Deliberately attack miko not.』

After saying that, the rock miko is wrapped in a light sphere that emits yellow phosphorescence, and floats away to outside the circle.

While my eyes were chasing her, my ear picked click-clack sound.

Apparently the sound was coming from a cube that separated away from the apostle's hand and transformed into a halberd-like shape.

This apostle prefers close quarter combats it seems.

I could have ended this instantly by instantaneously casting the space magic forbidden spell [Mythology Down] from my magic list, but since that would likely incur displeasures instead applauses, I held myself back.

"Item Box, <Open>."

I opened my Item Box with voice command, and took out a handmade sword made of orichalcum.

Similar with the magic sword Heim I gave to the [Weed] of Shiga Eight Swords, Heim, this sword is loaded with a magic circuit taken from holy sword Durandal that will restore the blade's sharpness by reciting the Command Word, [Eternal Blade].

This should be optimal against a foe with unknown methods of attack.

『--Begin.』

The rock miko announced the starting signal after I unsheathed the holy sword.

--ZWAEEEE.

The apostle let out an ear-splitting sound.

At the same time, yellow ripples of light began to course through the apostle's body surface.

It looks
exactly the same

as the purple ripples that appears when Arisa uses her Unique Skill.

--Fast.

The apostle charged forward at a speed that rivaled Pochi.

I was a bit curious about the weight of a blow coming from its tall stature, but since I had a slightly bad feeling about it, I evaded the blow while slashing at the apostle's leg.

--Hm?

What a weird feedback.

There's no firm resistance, it's like I'm cutting water.

According to AR reading, the apostle's HP gauge has only been reduced by a tiny bit.

Checking on the details, apparently this apostle is in [Invincible Warrior

(Champion)] State.

Looks like I could still see its State and gauges even though I couldn't see level and skills.

"--Whoops."

I jumped away to dodge a stab from behind.

A rapid thrust that made the halberd look like it was multiplying occurred there.

Since the halberd could seemingly be dealt with by the holy sword, unlike the apostle itself, I was able to thoroughly parry it.

The halberd's speed rivals that of Liza and Pochi, while its thrusting speed toward my openings rivals that of Tama, it's relatively tough to handle.

This apostle is obviously stronger than the apostles that fought against the Weasel Empire's palace knights. The Unique Skill-like [Champion] State probably has boosted up this apostle's strength.

I thought my attacks would work when my opponent was in the middle of attacking, but they barely dealt any damage on the apostle.

From what I've seen in the Weasel Empire's fight, white swords and cannonballs coated in dragon fang powder were used to kill apostles, thus I decide to use a white sword from amongst the seized stuff stored in Storage.

"Item Box, <Open>."

I shifted the holy sword onto my left hand, and took out a white sword with my right.

I didn't replace the sword since the Weasel Empire-made white sword is fragile compared to the holy sword.

While I was parrying the apostle, that's attacking at a warp-like speed from left and right, with the holy sword, I tried hitting it once with the white sword at the right timing.

--ZVWAEDDDE.

It's super effective.

One hit reduced the apostle's HP gauge by a third.

From what I could gather just now, this apostle is about equal as a level 60s demon.

--ZWAEEZWAAEE.

With click-clack sounds, the apostle body transformed, its arms increased to six.

It also got itself new armaments; two halberds, two shields, and two curved blades

Well, it's just for show.

It may have more arms, but it's also showing more openings than ever now, probably due to its own arms and weapons hindering itself.

I jump below the apostle with Ground Shrink, and mow down the apostle's ankles with the white sword.

The apostle tried to dodge the slash by lifting up its legs, but my slash was faster.

The apostle who had lost its ankles tried to stab me with its halberd and squashed me down with its shield together, but I went around it and stopped at its blind spot with Ground Shrink, then I stab the apostle's knee with the white sword.

The apostle's HP gauge is almost zero, but I can't deal any more damage even after slashing it many more times.

--ZWAEEZWAE.

The apostle shouted out loud, and then a yellow phosphorous flickered before its HP completely restored.

Well, I get that recovery is a specialty of holy magic, but this is still a bit annoying.

Most importantly, the white sword would broke if this kept up.

I'd prefer to preserve the dragon fang swords I have in my storage as much as possible.

"Now then--."

I stare at the apostle.

Apparently, I've got to land a hit at the critical spot to beat this apostle.

I ponder the spots that would likely be the apostle's weakness while dodging its attacks.

Normally you'd have thought it should be its head or heart, but things can't be that simple considering it's a god's apostle.

There must be some kind of requirements like having to strike both at the same time or something.

--Trial and error it is."

I used Sky Drive to balance out the disadvantages in height, and disarmed the apostle by relying on weapon destruction skill and weapon deprivation (Disarm) skill.

The defenseless chest of the apostle is exposed before me.

--Spiral Flash Thrust.

I rapidly unleashed the finisher move of Hero Hayato twice, drilling a hole on the defenseless apostle's head.

Then I get away from the apostle with Flash Drive, and observe its reaction.

"It'd be nice if this is the end--"

This much shouldn't be enough to finish off a God's Apostle, should it.

My worry turned out to be unfounded as the apostle crumbled into milky white powder.

--Yellow light?

A small yellow light floated out of the heap of powder on the ground, and rose up into heavens floatingly.

It's like the [God's Fragment] that comes out whenever you beat a demon lord.

I think it's probably God Zaikuon's fragment, although its unidentifiable as always with AR reading only showing [UNKNOWN], the chance of that is quite high.

The black circle line on the ground disappeared at the same time the yellow light did.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

『Second Trial』

After the rock miko indifferently said that, a yellow ring of light appeared around me like before and drew a circle on the ground of about 20-meter long in diameter.

Apparently, there's no declaration of victor in the match earlier.

Is it going to be a boxing match this time?

"--Nah, doesn't seem so."

At a place about 500 meters away from me, another 20-meter circle was

drawn, then a cube appeared there and transformed into an apostle with click-clack sounds.

『No changes in victory conditions.』

In other words, I've got to defeat this apostle with long-ranged attacks.

I put away the nearly destroyed white sword into the Item Box.

『--Begin.』

--ZWAEEEE.

The apostle let out a high frequency noise after the starting signal.

At the same time, ripples of yellow light course through its body surface.

--ZWAEEEE。

According to AR reading, this apostle has [Great Caster] and [Vanquish Archer] States.

As a test, I took out a Light Crystal Gun from Item Box and shot with it.

The laser that was shot out of the Light Crystal Gun penetrated the apostle's body, but it didn't deal any damage.

A shot from this gun has about the same firepower as one shot of my light magic [Laser], it appears ordinary magic can't hope to damage apostles.

--ZWAEEEE。

As if returning the favor, the apostle shot out an arrow from its arm that had transformed into a bow.

Using the holy sword, I flick off the arrow that was flying at a speed invisible to the naked eyes.

That was quite a weighty blow.

"...Orichalcum arrows huh?"

Not to the point that would numb my hand, but it could chip the holy sword if I don't hit it at the right angle.

While dealing the second and third arrows with the sword, I took out an emerald green long wand--a wand made from World Tree Emerald Branch from Item Box.

"■■■■..."

I begin to
chant a spell

while parrying the rain of arrows the apostle rapidly shot out.

--ZWAEEEE.

Though I don't think it was mimicking me, the apostle raised its wand-transformed arm high up, and began to draw a real dangerous looking magic circle.

Of course, it hasn't loosened up on the rain of arrows.

I'm not one to talk, but this guy sure is handy.

The magic circle is clad in flashes of yellow, which begins to gradually intensifies.

The apostle finished its chant far faster than me, and then the completed magic circle shot out a white beam.

--Fortress Defense (Fortress).

I make use of the defensive item, a standard equipment for Pendragon Team, reserved for emergency and block the beam.

Intense sparks scattered on the outer layer of the Fortress's defensive field.

The pseudo-material made from Force Magic turned cloudy, crumbling down at an awful rate.

Fortress is a defensive system made of multiple layers of defensive walls, so another defensive wall would reinforce it before the entire thing collapsed, it eventually managed to endure the apostle's magic attack.

--ZWAEEEE.

The apostle added more arms, and created seven magic circles from its now seven wand arms.

Even Fortress wouldn't be able to withstand seven times of the attack earlier.

But, well--.

I pointed my long wand toward the apostle.

--ZWAEEEEZWAEEEE。

The apostle let out a high pitched noise like it was flustered, but it was too late.

"■■■ ■■ ■ White Flame of Purgatory <<White Inferno>>"

A flash of white filled the space.

The wide-area annihilation forbidden spell that tends to indiscriminately spread to the surroundings is pinned down only in the space where the apostle

is at, mowing it down.

The thunderous booming sounds and heat followed after the flash, hitting my eardrum and skin.

My vision that quickly recovered thanks to Light-Intensity Adjustment skill showed black smoke and melted red-brownish ground that spread far and away.

No apostle is in sight. Looks like it was disintegrated by the forbidden spell.

Even the Log displays [Defeated Zaikuon Apostle], there's no doubt about it.

Of course the rock miko is safe.

"--Just as I thought."

Two yellow light orbs appeared slightly away from where the apostle was at, and disappeared floatingly toward heavens.

These yellow lights must really be [God Zaikuon's Fragments].

I just hope these apostles won't overuse their Unique Skill, get overloaded and turn into demon lord-like beings.



『Third Trial』

After the rock miko said that, the white space contracted and suddenly regained colors.

Disorderly noises reached my ears at the same time.

The sensation of floating in the clouds also changed into that of stepping on a solid ground.

This place seems to be the arena.

"--Satou?"

"And isn't that the Zaikuon Miko?"

I turned around toward the voices to see Rusus and Fifi.

Unconscious [Magic Warriors of Karion] are laying below them.

Looks like we've showed up at the conclusion of the tournament's final match.

Don't tell me I've got to beat these girls for the last fight?

16-48. Trial of Zaikuon (3)

Satou here. I think everyone, regardless of who, has cravings, big or small, for limelight and recognition. That in itself is important as motivation to keep moving forward, but when such a craving is swelled up so big one could only be satisfied by comparing oneself to others, I think that's where it gets dangerous.



"How'd you show up out of nowhere, space magic?"

"And why's miko-chan floating over there?"

Attendants of Hero Hayato, Rusus and Fifi threw me those questions.

Instead of looking puzzled to see me and the rock miko suddenly appearing in the arena, the two seemed very calm as expected of these two veterans.

『Emerge triumphant in the fight, accomplish the trial』

god Zaikuon spoke so through the rock miko who was still floating in the air.

At the same time, a black line was drawn on the edge of the arena.

"So then, are you going to fight us?"

"That's nice~. I was just feeling a little lacking with the fight earlier. We're ready anytime if it's a fight you want, Satou?"

Rusus and Fifi smiled ferociously.

They crack their fists, looking really pleased.

I don't mind fighting these two, but I still can't grasp what god Zaikuon is thinking, having me fight the two apostles that were powerful though imperfect earlier.

The rock miko held her hands up toward the heavens, then a yellow lights descended from beyond the sky, and then three yellow orbs appeared from inside that light, floated away and stopped right in front of me.

『Accept the powers of god, stand among the lowest seat of great apostles』

Nah, I'm good.

Perhaps my inner thought showed, as the yellow light orbs were repelled away in front of my chest.

『Why do you reject』

I mean, why wouldn't you?

Who needs [God's Fragment] that's almost certainly a back door anyway.

The rock miko turns her sight at Rusus and Fifi.

The light orbs floated toward Rusus and Fifi instead, but then a blue membrane-like material manifested itself around the two and repulsed the yellow light orbs away.

That was probably the divine protection of God Parion or something.

"O God! Our great God! Your servant, Holy Warrior Senuma is right over here!"

After the personnels in charge of the arena carried away the [Magic Warriors of Karion], the Zaikuon temple knight rushed into the arena.

The officials tried to go after him, but they were halted by a transparent wall that appeared around the arena.

Looks like the arena has been isolated by god Zaikuon.

The light orbs floated toward the temple knight and then began to orbit around him as if assessing him.

"By the Grace of great god Zaikuon, I shall slay the hounds of Parion and make known the great name of Zaikuon to all!"

The temple knight appealed at the light orbs orbiting around him.

He looks really desperate somehow.

"Satou, isn't that miko-san in, like, a real bad situation?"

At Rusus's warning, I turned my gaze toward the rock miko to find her unconscious with intense yellow light gushing out of her eyes and mouth.

Looks like she's hitting her limit with the Divine Possession.

The light wrapping her dissolved away as she fell onto the ground.

According to AR readings, she's been severely weakened, to the point that she'd die were she left alone.

"I, holy warrior Senuma, beseech your Grace, once again here!"

The cold-hearted temple knight ignored the predicament his colleague in, as he kept appealing to the light orbs.

Seemingly stricken by his desperation, one light orb went inside the temple knight's chest.

AR reading tells me that the Temple Knight has acquired the Unique Skill, [Invincible Warrior (Champion)].

His level has increased from 30 to 45, probably cause he got a God's Fragment.

"Ooooooh! My body is overflowing with powers! God powers of such majesty! No one can stand in my way now!"

Looks like he's intoxicated by feelings of omnipotence from the God's Fragment.

"Here I come, you Parion hounds! Prepare yourselves!"

Yellow light is flickering around the temple knight's body.

According to AR readings, his State is now [Champion] and [Super-Strength].

The former was Unique Skill, the latter is probably from god Zaikuon's sacred treasure.

Now then, that's fine and all, but the situation has gotten complicated somehow.

At first, it seems the trial would be done by defeating Rusus and Fifi, but now I'm not sure if I should cooperate with the knight to defeat the two or beat all three myself.

Working together with the two to defeat the temple knight should be out of question.

Even though he's received a God's Fragment, the current temple knight is probably still not a match to Rusus and Fifi.



"By hound, you mean me? I'm a wolf not a dog y'know?"

The wolfear-kin Fifi rubbed her nose with her finger while smiling ferociously.

"Then, I'll be taking Satou on."

"Ah, no fair, Rusus! We're gonna decide who's going to fight Satou after I beat down this guy!"

I smiled wryly to see Rusus and Fifi disputing.

These two really love to fight as always.

"You bastard! You are before Zaikuon Apostle, the holy warrior Senuma-sama, what insolence!"

While the two were having a carefree chat, the enraged temple knight rushed at a terrifying speed toward Fifi.

The temple knight's sword that was faster than wind flashed and grazed Fifi's cheek.

He's clearly faster than when he's buffed only with [Super-Strength] from the sacred treasure, but he's incomparably slower than the apostle with [Champion] state that I fought before.

It appears that only the real apostle of god could show the true powers of [God's Fragment].

"Oh pretty good. You're as fast as Rusus at least."

"Kuha, kuhahahaha, god's power is grandiose! Having been granted god Zaikuon's grace--"

The temple knight who stopped while getting drunk in his powers got kicked hard by Fifi who closed in at the same speed.

The temple knight rolled on the ground got flicked away by the transparent wall above the black line.

"You're pretty good. Parion Apostles."

The temple knight stood up while bleeding from his mouth.

"Huh, when did we become apostles again?"

"Who knows?"

Fifi and Rusus shrugged their shoulders.

"No point standing around here, let's go at it ourselves yeah?"

"I'd like to give her treatment first if I could, do you mind waiting for a bit?"

"Nope, go on then."

Since I got Rusus's approval, I stopped next to the rock miko and let her drank elixir.

I made use of this timing to put away the holy sword and magic wand I had in hands.

The damage on both rock miko's body and soul should be restored by elixir, but it seems she still won't come to due to exhaustion.

There's no need for me to stay beside the rock miko anymore, but it'd be bad if Rusus noticed that I was done with the treatment, thus I pretend to be treating the miko by circulating mana into her.

"Oh what's this? Fifi's getting pushed back?"

I lift my head when I heard Rusus, and true enough, Fifi who was on the offensive earlier is now busy defending.

Finding it strange, I looked at the temple knight and saw that his level had been raised to 55, and he now has another Unique Skill [Vanquish Archer].

One of the light orbs orbiting the temple knight has vanished.

It appears that the temple knight got a power up while I wasn't looking.

"Fuhn, forget Hayato, you're not even at Meiko's and Seigi's level."

"Damn you Parion hound!"

Provoked by Fifi, yellow light wraps the temple knight once again.

"This isn't the extent of powers granted to me by great god Zaikuon!"

Looks like he hasn't used the Vanquish Archer's powers yet.

"--Take this!"

When the temple knight swung his sword down, an arrow of light manifested

from his sword and flew toward Fifi.

Moreover, it split into 10 halfway through and rained down on her.

Cloud of dust whirled up when the arrows hit the arena, leaving it full of holes.

I think the situation is straying a bit too far from the match.

I'm not too worried about Fifi as she should be able to manage, but perhaps I should be ready to jump in anytime.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



Fifi jumped out of the cloud of dust that had filled the center of the arena.

A moment later the cloud of dust was split in two.

Right afterward, Fifi who was still in mid air turned around and swung her sword.

Fifi's sword produced intense sparks, sounds of air splitting echoed in the surroundings.

Apparently, the temple knight attacked her with an invisible slash.

Then second slash, third slash, Fifi parried them away while evading.

She couldn't seem to guard against the shockwaves, she's cut here and there, her blood stains her clothes red.

"Need a help? Fifi."

"Shut up! Fifi-sama ain't gonna lose against this level of an opponent!"

Even though there's not much gap in their levels now, and she's up against someone with two battle-oriented Unique Skills, Fifi still believes in her victory.

"Be proud of yourself, holy warrior. I'll show you a technique that I've never used in a match except against Hayato before."

Fifi provoked the temple knight while calmly sorting out her breathing.

Like saying, she's confident that her technique will bring her victory.

"Come at me, Parion hound. Witness as your little tricks stood powerless before holy warrior Senuma-sama who have received the Grace of god Zaikuon!"

The temple knight arrogantly jerked up his chin.

"O original blood that flows within me. O blood vessel of the divine wolf. Together with rekindled ancient memories--"

Light dwells in Fifi's blue eyes.

Feels like this chant gonna revive my lost history of chuunibyou.

I think it's a type of autosuggestion used to access the skill.

"--<Beast Form>"

Steam-like white aura rises up from Fifi's body, her canine teeth are transforming into fangs.

Along with that, the white aura wraps around Fifi like fur, making her look like a werewolf.

According to AR readings, this aura has a support effect of adding five times her stats into her status.

In exchange, her stamina and MP gauges are decreasing at an awful rate.

This is probably a big reason why she didn't use the technique while fighting against demon lords.

"UORYAAAAAAA!"

"NUOOOOOOOOOO!"

Fifi is closing in while swiftly evading the incoming light arrows shot by the temple knight.

The invisible slashes that came assaulting during her rush were all punched down by the silver aura-clad Fifi.

The moment they were within each other sword range, a fierce sword clash began.

The slashes that Fifi parried crushed the arena, while the shockwaves from Fifi's attacks the temple knight blocked blew cloud of dust.

"Uwaa, that looks so fun~"

Rusus looks like she's truly envious as she watches Fifi and the temple knight who are scattering colorful sparks around and letting out heavy sounds.

It's scary since she said that while looking here, but there's something that's piqued my interest more.

I saw yellow light ripples running through the temple knight's body during this battle.

I'm not sure whether Unique Skills from god Zaikuon are the same as Unique Skills that reincarnated people like Arisa have, but I don't think you could get away willy nilly using powers beyond what human could wield.

"Eat this!"

Fifi unleashed a powerful move on the temple knight while shouting out loud.

I missed it a bit, but apparently she hit him with her finisher right when the temple knight lost his footings by her rapid assault.

The temple knight's barrier was broken down by the direct hit, blowing off his helmet.



"Ooh, did she beat him?"

Rusus shouted out loud when she saw the temple knight laying on the arena's ground.

Fifi who's just unleashed her finisher is also wounded with bone fractures and blood all over her body, yet she still keeps her stance without letting her guard down.

Apparently, she's exhausted up all her stamina, she's no longer in Beast Form.

"--Oh boy, you're pretty tough."

The temple knight rose up while supporting his body with his sword.

It seems the bones in his right arm and left leg are fractured.

Fifi smiled fiercely and beckoned at the temple knight with her hand as if provoking him.

"Gununu--"

The temple knight had his gaze swim all over the place restlessly before it caught on the last light orb orbiting around him.

"O god Zaikuon... Grant your grace upon this holy warrior Senuma who befits your apostle!!"

The temple knight's hand clad in yellow light caught the light orb.

As the orb was struggling to get away in his hand, he put it into his mouth and gulped it down.

"--NUOOOOOOOOOOOO!!"

The temple knight roared towards the heavens.

At the same time, yellow light wrapped around him, and his barrier that was destroyed by Fifi's beast form reformed back.

Furthermore, his broken limbs and wounds were healed too.

Matching that, his level rose from 55 to 65.

With another Unique Skill added; [Great Caster].

"Glory to god Zaikuon--"

The temple knight looked up to the sky and praised the god.



"Isn't that, like, super bad?"

"It is--"

Not Fifi, but the temple knight that is.

A thin layer of yellow crystal has formed on the his forehead.

Similar to Hero Meiko who overused her Unique Skills during the Divine Punishment.

It's still a bit away before he reached Meiko's state, but that limit is coming closer for sure.

"--Tch. You
cheat
bastard."

Fifi cursed out.

The temple knight's face was filled with joy when he saw Fifi being like that.

He hasn't gone straight onto the offensive because he's enjoying the situation.

"Would you like me to swap with her?"

I asked Rusus while pretending to stop the rock miko's treatment.

"Huhn? Ain't you on Zaikuon Temple's side?"

"Oh no, I'm not really on their side."

With wounds all over her body like that, it could get dangerous for Fifi after all.

"However, we don't need your help."

Rusus walked toward the arena while waving her hand behind.

"After all, I'm Fifi's partner."

Rusus buffed herself up with body reinforcement skill and rushed out to help Fifi.

The level gap should be bigger than their fight against demon lords, yet the two were able to somehow hold their ground by cooperating together.

However, that probably will only last until they've exhausted up their stamina in a few minutes.

I'd like to respect their warrior spirits, but I probably should get ready to cut in anytime.

"--Gwaaa"

"Fifi!"

Fifi who couldn't block the temple knight's sword got blown away.

Rusus begins to cross swords with the knight, but she's clearly at disadvantage with her partner not present.

Nevertheless she's still able to stand her ground against the temple knight's fierce attack, but she's fighting an opponent that has leveled up beyond her level through God's Fragments, and is buffed with Unique Skills, holy magic and the divine treasure's [Super-Strength].

She's nearing his limit--.

--Tch. Even double physical buff can't hold this thing off huh..."

Rusus took the downswing attack in order to protect Fifi, she got beat down onto the ground and coughed out blood.

--Die."

"I won't let you."

This time, the wounded Fifi blocked the blow that was directed toward Rusus.

However, she couldn't manage to block the blow as her sword broke down, the temple knight's sword that hadn't lost its momentum broke Fifi's shoulder.

"This is the end--"

The temple knight holds up his sword clad in yellow light high.

"--What do you think youre doing?"

The temple knight whose articulation had gone weird looked down on me.

"Player swap, I guess?"

I thrust myself between the knight and the two with a handmade magic sword in hand.

"Bastard, who areyou?"

The temple knight inquired my identity.

Now that you mention it, I never introduced myself.

"Demon Lord Slayer, Pendragon of Shiga Kingdom."

"--Demon Lordslayer huh."

The temple knight smiled profoundly after hearing my name.

"I couldn't hope for a betteropponent."

16-49. Trial of Zaikuon (4)

Satou here. Pure love that bloomed in your youth often come out as foolish, but rather than those who sarcastically make a fool out of it, those who tread upon the path of love following their heart look more wonderful to me.



--guNZUnu"

I tried to slash him with my sword, but it felt like when I fought the first close-quarter combat apostle earlier.

The weight and speed of his blows are higher than Liza and the girls, but since he's lacking the battle sense, our vanguards wouldn't have much trouble going against him.

Demon lords at the level of [Golden Wild Boar King] probably could easily crush him.

『Swordsman-samaaaaaaa!』

『Who's that guy?』

『He's so awesooooome!』

The cheers that were directed to the temple knight turned to me.

『Guess those permanent Zaikuon Temple losers are staying losers again this year.』

『Yea well, it's Zaikuon 'fter all.』

『I ain't bettin' on them.』

『Buncha fool. Even if god Zaikuon were revived, those Zaikuon Temple bunch are just dregs.』

『Damn right.』

Attentive Ears-skill picked up many voices.

There were some who cheered on the temple knight, like 『Holy knight, don't lose!』 but most were like the above. It's not really my business, but it's a bit

unpleasant to listen.

"Damn youuu!"

The temple knight shot out arrows created by the [Vanquish Archer].

With the magic edge-clad magic sword, I cut down the arrows in a way that won't make them hit behind me.

One of the arrow flew way off me, breaking down the transparent wall of the arena's boundary.

Cheers, hoots and disdains turned into screams.

Seeing that, the temple knight showed up a dark smile.

Looks like the thoughtless remarks earlier were heard by the temple knight too.

"nuoooooOoooooo"

The temple knight roared in a rage and unleashed a roundhouse kick.

Since god Zaikuon isn't interfering anymore, I'd love to end this just about now, but judging from all the trials so far, lowering people's faith toward the god in question is not a good situation to be in for a trial.

I'll let the temple knight gain the upper hand during our fight, and then end it with either a draw or a narrow victory.

The temple knight's body and soul would not hold if I drag it on too long, let's do this quick.

And while I was thinking that--.

"Gununu--NuoooOooooooooO"

The temple knight roared up toward heavens.

Numerous arrows of light that look like hedgehog's needles appear around him.

The arrows were released like some sort of missile attack in a robot anime, and hit the transparent wall in the arena's boundary, inviting flashes and

thunderous sounds, along with screams and angry yells from the audience.

The defensive wall that protected the audience is smashed down like scattered broken glass.

Half of the arrows went toward me and the rock miko along with Rusus and Fifi behind me, but I cut down all of them with my magic sword.

"What is this guy doing..."

I guess he must be offended by the verbal abuse earlier.

By doing this, instead of getting more believers, it won't be strange if people boycott god Zaikuon instead.

It seems as if it was the temple knight who took the initiative, not god Zaikuon, his act of aggression must be driven by his emotions.

"nuhahahaHYAhaha"

He's going for the third volley, the amount of arrows is fewer than before, but all of them are aimed at the audience.

--Think I'll let you?

While chanting the [<<Flexible Shield>>] spell, I shot down the arrows with magic edge cannon shot out of my magic sword.

The arrows created by the Vanquish Archer move about in mid air in an attempt to evade my magic edge cannon, but I also moved my magic edge cannon mid-air to home in on the arrows.

One of the arrow dodged the magic edge cannon and flew toward the audience.

An explosion occurred at the audience seat.

Red lights flew off, blowing away the explosion's smoke.

"Master! Please leave this to me!"

It's Liza.

Looks like Liza shot down the arrow from the audience seat.

"We'll lend her a hand."

"Satou, leave it to us to help her."

Rusus and Fifi who were done recuperating with magic potions.

"That would be great. Could you also evacuate the arena and take care of miko-dono?"

"Okay, leave it to us."

I think the miko should be fine since I've stealthily put a Fortress magic tool on her, but I guess fighting while holding back and protecting her would be a bit tough.

After seeing off the two who took the miko with them to the audience seat, I stepped forward toward the inactive temple knight.

"Did you think harming the populace is what god Zaikuon wanted?"

I asked the temple knight as I walked toward him.

"They deserved it for they spoke ill of the great god Zaikuon!"

He really did target the audience in the attack earlier.

"--Senuma."

I could hear the rock miko from the audience seat.

She came around at a bad timing.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"shuTUP"

The temple knight spat out angrily and released a light arrow toward the miko.

Rusus and Fifi who were near her knocked down that arrow, but she couldn't hide her shock from getting attacked by her friend.

"W-why--"

"idontNEEdapestlikeyouanymORE"

The temple knight's articulation has clearly turned weird.

A yellow crystal that appeared on his forehead began to grow out and formed a horn-like shape.

For now, I should give up on gathering piety for god Zaikuon and neutralize the temple knight to stop his condition from worsening even further.

"Here I go--"

"coME"

I slipped through the rain of light arrows, and evaded the slash that cut the arena into two by a paper thin difference.

I rushed out and stopped in front the temple knight before he could unleash another attack, and then I hit him with the Piercing Fist.

Feeling the destruction of his barrier on my palm.

I snatch away the temple knight's mana with force magic [Mana Drain].

Right afterward, I lightly put my palm on the temple knight's stomach.

"--HAA."

With my hand still on his barrier, I twist my body and hit him with a strengthened gouging motion. Moment later, a mass of pure mana struck his barrier.

It's the Mana Strike skill I learned in my fight with Goblin Princess Yuika at the labyrinth's lower layer.

The temple knight who was hit by the quiet strike convulsed and fell down like a decayed tree.

I don't think he's dead since I used Abduction skill, but that was quite a dramatic way to fall down.

"Senumaaaaaaaaa!"

Probably thinking the same, the rock miko called out the temple knight's name.

Roll roll, a circlet rolled and fell below me.

It's god Zaikuon's sacred treasure that was on the temple knight's forehead.

I picked up the sacred treasure for no particular reason and walked toward the temple knight.

Then I saw the temple knight's finger twitched.

"--I (watashi)--I (ore) am god Zaikuon holy warrior!"

Attentive Ears skill picked up his blurred voice.

Looks like he's still clinging to his consciousness thanks to the Unique Skills.

"No--wrong... I (ore). I (boku), I am the apostle of god senuMUAWAAAAAAAAAA"

Yellow light courses through the temple knight's body.

"That's far enough."

To stop him from running amok, I trampled down on the temple knight's stomach to stop his breathing, and kicked his chin to induce a cerebral concussion.

If this isn't enough, I'll use paralyze type spell chantlessly in combination with the kicking.

Something unexpected unfolded before me who was thinking nonchalantly like such.



"SENUMAAAAAAA!"

The sound of an explosion and the rock miko's scream filled the arena that had lost any sign of human presence.

White splinters clad in yellow light jump out of the yellow smoke that appeared along with the explosive sound.

I produced <<Flexible Shield>> chantlessly to block those splinters, but they easily

passed

through the shield.

I took a light step to evade the white splinters while being surprised by that.

"--What just?"

"That temple knight called Senuma appears to have exploded."

"Exploded? By Satou's attack?"

"No, not because of that. Master's attacks were all in an effort to knock out

the temple knight without wounding him."

Liza answered Rusus and Fifi's inquiry.

Eventually the white smoke cleared up.

--Geh.

"Se, numa..."

The rock miko was agape.

A cube that's been split into three are floating in the air, all of the cubes have the temple knight's face along the surfaces.

Many small cubes are orbiting around them like satellites.

This is way off my expectations.

——ZWAEEEE.

——ZWAEEEE.

——ZWAEEEE.

Coarse sounds like that of apostles echoed, yellow light overflowed out of the cubes.

Each of the cube appears to host a [God's Fragment], wearing the effect of [Champion], [Vanquish Archer], and [Great Caster].

While the the temple knight's faces were still running along the cubes' surfaces, the cubes changed their shapes geometrically, and ultimately settled down into a low-polygonal humanoid shape.

The faces disappeared all at once, and then a new temple knight's face appeared on the triangular-shaped heads.

"Senuma, why..."

The rock miko muttered in a daze while shedding tears unceasingly.

Now then, defeating them is easy, but whatever should I do here...



"Satou! 3 against 1 is too much no?"

"We're gonna help too--"

Rusus and Fifi who were going to jump into the arena were attacked by a swarm of small cubes, stopping them in their track.

"What's with these things?"

"My sword just slipped through 'em."

It seems like those small cubes carry the same property as the apostle main body of being physically half-immortal.

Aiming at my opening as I looked away, the Great Caster apostle unleashed several telephone-pole sized holy spears created by holy magic, while the Vanquish Archer apostle rapidly shot out arrows at me at a machine gun-like rate.

While erasing the magic with [Break Magic], I swiftly slashed down the light arrows in rapid succession.

"--<Open>."

I clashed against the incoming Champion apostle with a white sword I took from my Item Box.

I parried off its sword to throw the Champion apostle off balance, kicked it away, and made use of the recoil to zero in on the two apostles in the rear.

--ZWAEEEE.

--ZWAEEEE.

The Great Caster apostle fortified its defense with holy magic in a hurry, but it was already too late.

I erased the defensive magic with Break Magic, and flowingly slashed down the Great Caster apostle with the white sword.

The Vanquish Archer apostle tried to get away from me while raining down

arrows of light on me.

I evaded the attack by successively using Ground Shrink, and cut the Vanquish Archer apostle into two.

Yellow light orbs parted away from the apostles that disappeared into white powder.

Ordinarily, I would have immediately obliterated them with the Divine Sword, but that would definitely invite god Zaikuon's grudge, thus I decide observe them here instead.

——ZWAEEEE.

The Champion apostle closed in at a speed rivaling that of a bullet shot out of a rail gun, I blocked it with the white sword and hurled it away.

Looks like the Champion apostle was aiming for the yellow light orbs.

"■■■■■■■■ ■■ ■■■■..."

I began to chant the [God Sealing] spell that Corpse had taught me at the labyrinth's lower layer.

Unlike with the Divine Sword, I could liberate them later with this spell.

—ZWAE.

—ZWAEZWAE.

The Champion apostle gathers light into the sword in its hand, forming a gigantic sword.

Apparently, it knows what kind of magic I'm trying to cast.

After it's done forming the gigantic sword, the temple knight's face on the cube's surface floats a do-or-die expression and then it rushes after me.

While still continuing the chant, I parry the Champion apostle's fierce attack with both the white sword and the magic sword in my hands.

White, red, yellow sparks scattered around, and even before the chant was done, the Champion apostle had been neutralized into several pieces of splinters.



I continue the sealing spell chant while gazing at the remains of the Champion apostle since there's no declaration of victory yet.

With the splinters still on the ground, the temple knight's faces are reflected on some of them like a reflection in the mirror.

"...bBOWQUUam...HOLyknight."

I could hear a voice-like sound when I touched the splinter.

"Senuma!"

The rock miko ran up and hug one of a biggish splinter in her chest.

White thorn rises up from that splinter, growing toward the rock miko's forehead.

However, the wicked blade was naught to reach the miko.

--Let go of it. It's dangerous."

Liza with a white spear in her hand intercepted the white thorn and turned the splinter the rock miko was hugging into white powder.

"Master, please forgive me. I used the hidden weapon without your permission."

"Don't worry about that."

I mean the white sword I'm using is also one after all.

"Pendragon-sama, please save, please save Senuma!"

The rock miko is clinging onto me.

I personally have given up on saving the temple knight's life the moment he burst off and turned into an apostle, but as his friend, the miko hasn't given up yet it seems.

The splinter with the temple knight's face on it was destroyed by Liza, but the face has already generated in another splinter.

"I don't mind sacrificing my life to make it happen."

The rock miko entreated.

"Not even Satou could possibly do that, could he."

"Right, no matter how extraordinary Satou is, he's no god."

Rusus and Fifi who had run after the miko said that.

Well, it is indeed impossible.

--No wait.

"Could it be, Master, you could?"

Liza who noticed the change in my expression sounded surprised.

"Is that true?! I'll do anything if you save Senuma. I offer you this body, life--

no, even my soul, my all!"

The rock miko said so with a powerful will in her eyes.

It really feels like she'd even sell her soul.

"Then, please lend me your power. I need your help to do it."

The rock miko gave her consent.



"--Geez, to think you'd threaten a god."

"Like, truly unbelievable."

Once everything was over, Rusus and Fifi said that on board of an airship flying away from the Pier Rock kingdom.

"But I didn't threaten anyone. I merely made a request to god Zaikuon."

I sealed the [God's Fragments] that came out of the two apostles, linked with the rock miko's mind to call god Zaikuon, and asked him to put back the temple knight's soul that had remained in the last apostle into a new body created from the apostle's remain as a condition to release the two sealed fragments.

"Well, ain't it fine?"

"And the temple knight's rampage was treated like it was the demon's handiwork, so no harm done on god Zaikuon's reputation either."

Rusus and Fifi shrugged their shoulder.

Once everything was over, I made a show of flashy rays and sounds of explosions with light magic, produced god Zaikuon's mark high above the arena's sky to authentically make it look like god Zaikuon did something, and then I came out of the arena with the sacred treasure equipped.

A demon assuming the temple knight Senuma's appearance was rampaging, and I and the rock miko who had received an oracle stood up to eliminate the demon, or so the story was spread.

Since I came out of the arena equipped with armor befitting that of a holy

warrior, a great many people appeared to believe it.

Well, perhaps it's thanks to that follow-up, I've successfully cleared the trial and got the [Mark of Zaikuon] on my title column.

There's also some disgruntled sounding titles like [One who Tricks God], and [Disrespectful Traitor] among the titles, but I don't really care as long as I cleared the trial.

"There was no riot either, ain't it fine?"

"It hasn't been long since the divine punishment, like any moron would cause a riot."

Rusus and Fifi turned their sight outside the window while sipping on ale.

"In the end, you went and donated to all temples?"

"Trifling it may be--"

I affirmed Rusus's question.

I gave donations to all seven temples, 100 gold coins and food of equal proportion to each.

According to these two, Saga Empire would come to help with provision even if I left them be, but I wouldn't want people there to starve while waiting for that.

"So, are you really going there? There's nothing but ruins y'know?"

"Yes, there's something I need to check out a bit."

I replied to Fifi who was delightfully gnawing on dry-cured ham.

"I would come to play too if the vampire survived~"

"That sounds fun."

Liza who came out victorious in a match against the rib meat took a leg meat while agreeing to Rusus.

We're heading to a city at the neighboring country that was destroyed by vampires.

Since that city has been blockaded by Saga Empire, I've asked Rusus and Fifi to let us pass while also escorting them to the Dragg Kingdom.

Since I'm planning to dispatch Echigoya branch offices in the countries around here, it'll be bad if some stray vampires that are good at hiding lurk around, so I'd like to investigate first.

"Hey hey, Satou."

"Wanna wager whether Meiko who went to Dragg Kingdom ahead of time picked a fight with the country's guardian dragon or not?"

Rusus and Fifi said some foreboding sounding thing with a smile on their whole face.

Apparently, there's a lot of brawn for brains girls in this world.

Seeing the two, Liza also smiled.

"Guardian dragon is it. I would love to have a match with it myself."

--Et tu, Liza.

16-50. Vampires

Satou here. Don't you think that the most terrifying thing about vampires that come up in movies and stories is their ability to turn people into vampires? Since their proliferation rate outstrips even that of rats'.



"Snacks that Satou made really are the best."

"This liquor is pretty nice too, no? Saga Empire's brandy huh?"

"Ale is nice too, but this snack go down the best with strong stuff!"

Rusus and Fifi sipped their glasses in good moods in the airship's main cabin. They're already without their armor, wearing risky-looking clothing.

Liza is in the room too, she's currently absorbed in sampling the seven types of jerky we stocked at Pier Rock kingdom.

"Where'd the lil' girls go?"

"I asked them to do some errands for me."

"Eeh, booring."

The drunk Rusus puts my head under her arm.

The sensation on my cheek is quite wonderful, but the impregnable fortress pair would intrude in if this kept up, thus I steel myself and get away from the sweet powerful shackles.

"You're gonna fight dragons once we arrived at Dragg Kingdom 'rite?"

Fifi said some dangerous sounding words.

Come to think of it, the treasures in my Storage belong to [Dragg Holy Kingdom].

Since they look like old coins, it might be a currency used in the country that precedes Dragg Kingdom.

"I can't wait for it. How bout you Liza, ever fought a dragon?"

"Yes--"

Replying Rusus, Liza who blurted out unintentionally realized her verbal slip and looked at me.

"--You fought some lesser dragons when we visited the western countries, remember."

"Lesser dragons huh--Well, I guess that's only right."

"True dragons are on a whole different level than those."

Rusus and Fifi nodded at each other when I replied in Liza's stead.

"Is that true?"

"Those guys are simply outta this world, just you know."

"There was this time we ran into a blue and a red dragons at Saga Empire, they were way out of league it wasn't even a fight."

"I mean, a single breath managed to blow us away."

"On top of having a wide range, it was unbelievably fast, we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Hayato's protection given by god."

Rusus and Fifi narrated their story while looking boastful somewhat.

Hearing that, Liza replied with, "Truly", with a meaningful look on her face.

Indeed, there's no way to evade those laser-like breaths of a true dragon without something like Ground Shrink or Flash Drive, no way to block them either without a Fortress-class barrier at least.

While we were having such a conversation, I caught sights of overflowing refuges in the towns and forts trailing to the neighboring country, thus I landed the airship and shared provisions to them many times.

Food in the form of portable carry cereal bars made of a mix of Giant Kelp fine powder, finely chopped dried fish and sea serpent meat.



"Think we're about to arrive soon?"

Leaving the dead drunk Rusus and Fifi in the main cabin, I went to the deck with Liza.

I realized that we were out of Pier Rock Kingdom on the Map, so I used [All Map Exploration] from the magic list.

I don't see any vampire in the monster domains around the neighboring kingdom.

I used [All Map Exploration] again once we got out of the monster domain and reached the neighboring country.

"--Lots of them seem to have been scattered about."

Not insignificant numbers of Vampire Slaves and Blood Stalkers are still lurking in the two destroyed towns, while one Vampire and several Vampire Slaves are hiding in the subterranean tunnel of the Royal Capital.

"I shall immediately go exterminate them if Master wishes so."

"Right then..."

According to the documents I have on hand, only Vampire class and above have the ability to increase their numbers, I should leave the clean up in the destroyed Tokislu town to Saga Empire's expeditionary force and to Tokiswolk Kingdom's troops who must be hellbent on getting their revenge.

Since Vampire Slaves and Blood Stalkers are relatively strong, they will likely suffer some casualties, but from what I've seen through space magic Clairvoyance, butting in here seems like it would invite their grudges instead.

"...We should leave this area to the local troops, I'll be counting on you to look for the vampires in the capital city later."

"Understood."

Liza gave her affirmation.

The airship came nearby Tokislu town while we were conversing, thus I decided to land the airship there to offer our help.

I'm not going to participate in the subjugation, but there should be no problem in sharing provisions here.

I gave them lots of magic potions, magic tools embedded with light gem that vampires hate, and a few simple version of holy monuments.

I hope it could ease Tokiswolk Kingdom's generals and soldiers even a bit.

I also asked about what happened during the vampire raid.

"--It just suddenly happened?"

"Yeah. Missing persons increasing, weird incidents happening, monsters and beasts shifting locations, it was completely void of those omens."

According to the soldiers, no [Vampire] was ever sighted here since the country was founded.

"This Tokislu town was overrun by vampires the same day the Royal Capital's Parion Temple Miko received an oracle."

"Lots of rumors flying about like maybe the gate of hell had opened, or that they were summoned through a ritual by an evil sect's Soul Art users, but the truth is shrouded in darkness."

The two towns were destroyed practically in the same day, the capital suffered an attack by masses of vampires when the other six temples were on their way to convey the oracle they received.

"The attack was carried out in daytime?"

"Yea, there was an out of season torrential rain on that day, musta because the sun those vampires hate didn't show up then."

"Now that ya mention it, the survivors of Tokislu town also said there was a torrential rain on the first day too."

"Damn, what a totally shitty coincidence in this dry season."

I heard some troubling words in the soldiers' conversation, so I tried to search the Map and found neither evil sect nor Soul Art users in this country.

Didn't catch any sight of people powerful enough to cast magic capable of manipulating weathers like reincarnated people with Unique Skills either.

After thanking the soldiers for the info, I took off on the airship.



"Where did those vampires come from--"

I'm pondering while feeling the winds on the airship's deck.

According to the documents I have on hand, the vampires in this world cannot multiply as easily as they would in tales about vampires on earth.

Vampires here have three specific skills that can be used to increase their numbers; [Blood Covenant], [Blood Contract], and [Blood Subordination].

[Blood Subordination] is used to create [Blood Stalkers] from corpses.

The ability to create Vampire Slaves and Vampires, [Blood Contract], has some restrictions; it needs a ritual to be performed during a night of full moon, thrice. Once a ritual has been performed, the recipient will have [Blood Contract: In Progress] state.

In other worlds, creating one vampire above Blood Stalker class needs at least two months time.

The documents state that Appraisal skill cannot see through the [Blood Contract: In Progress] state, however, it's hard to believe that no one noticed the amount of vampires needed to destroy a countries the entire time.

Additionally, the [Blood Covenant] greater vampires have can create vampires with [Blood Contract] ability.

--Guess asking the person itself will be the fastest."

I muttered so while gazing at the Tokiswolk's capital city in the distant.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"...This is terrible."

"Yes, it's a like a village in the wake of war."

I'm currently strolling the capital city with Liza.

Lethargic people sitting beside rubbles and burned down houses, the sights of piled up bodies being burned with fire magic and oil, and the figures of people crying around those piles.

These sights would have been enough to make me hate vampires as a whole if I wasn't acquainted with true ancestor Ban Hellsing and vampire princess Semeri.

I asked Rusus and Fifi to get a permission from Saga Empire's garrison in the capital city to let us through.

Of course, my goal is to separate the two away from us.

"Looks like we can get into the tunnel from there."

I head for a drainage trench at a riverside.

To meet the vampires lurking in the capital city of course.

I buff Liza with dark magic [Night Sight] and went into the tunnel without lighting.

Red dots are reflected in my Radar.

"Master."

"Yeah, they're here."

Vampire Slaves.

They seem to have noticed us, they're moving toward the Vampire's location, slightly away from them.

"Hold it, Liza."

"Should we not run after them?"

"We can't get through that path with our physiques."

I stopped Liza who saw the red eyes, and picked the shortest route to the Vampire's hiding place.

Someone was waiting for us when we got close to the hiding place.

"Stop!"

The voice of a boy.

Six red lights float in the darkness at the direction of the voice.

It's the

Vampire Slaves.

"I need to interrogate them, no killing, got it?"

"Acknowledged."

Liza closed in on the Vampire Slaves with Flickering Step and suppressed them with a single blow.

Without even giving the Vampire Slaves a chance to use their specific ability, [Mist Form].

"Cats and children..."

I restrain the Vampire Slaves with soul magic [Soul Bind (Hold Undead Soul)].

They'd get away with Mist Form if I used ordinary ropes.

This magic seems to be painful to undeads, the Vampire Slaves are groaning in anguish.

I feel pretty bad since their appearances are that of cats and infants.

The last red dot approached us while I was thinking that.

A shadow jumped out of an inconspicuous corner in the tunnel.

Liza quickly holds down the shadow on the ground while leaving trails of red light from her magic spear, without me having to do anything.

"Torque! Please, I don't mind what you do to me, just please let them go!"

The hiding Vampire was a girl.

Moreover, her attire is that of a normal village girl you could find anywhere.

According to AR readings, she's a level 20 Vampire with all the specific abilities peculiar to the species, but she's only 12 year old without skills nor

gifts.

Detailed info taught me that she was a daughter of an ordinary family that lived in the capital city.

Dunno if I could get any info out of her, but I should ask just to be sure.

"Tell me all information you have. I'll let them off with their lives if you could give me a satisfactory one."

"Information? What kind of information? I'll tell you anything!"

She's more obedient than I thought.

Looks like there was no need for hostages and interrogation.

"When did you become a vampire?"

"I don't know. I had fangs before I realized it, and when I saw mom and my little brothers, their blood..."

The girl mumbled at the end.

When our eyes met, the girl hesitantly spoke, "Thirsting for blood, she was afraid she'd assault her family and ran out of her house."

"Then tell me what you can recall about the time before you turned into vampire. No matter how trivial it is."

"Before I turned?"

"Before you have fangs."

The girl closed her mouth with a serious look afterward.

She's probably retracing her memories.

"I got unusual jerky from the uncle next door. It was really tasty."

Liza who's standing next to me is slowly swinging her tail, probably piqued by the girl's story.

"I ate the jerky at the fountain since my little brother would have snatched if I went home... A hunter with his dog came by to get water from the fountain, and I was injured by the dog who jumped for the jerky. Huh? But it's healed. Even though it was really painful and I had it bandaged."

The girl recited the day in stutters.

Even though there were some suspicious episodes, none seemed to be related to the vampire yet.

"Come to think of it, there was someone weird at the fountain square."

"Someone weird?"

"Un, he was fetching water from the fountain even though he was a noble."

Well, normally nobles would have sent their servants to do that.

According to the girls, his entire body was hidden in a hooded mantle, the girl concluded that he was a noble since the clothes seen from the mantle's gap was that of a foreign high-class suit.

"Also..."

"Also?"

I urged on the girl who hesitated to continue on.

"That person went away somewhere after leaving the pot he used to draw water."

That's suspicious for sure.

"Did anything unusual happen afterward?"

"Nn, I don't think so."

I asked the girl about the location of the fountain in question, and checked it with space magic [Clairvoyance].

There was not even a trace of the pot.

It was either taken away or destroyed during the vampire raid.

"--Ah."

The girl raised her face.

"I got stung by a bug."

The girl raised her skirt and pointed at her leg.

Not a trace of bug bite there.

It must have been healed by the recovery rate of a vampire.

"Remember anything about your surroundings? Like how other people were like."

"Other people? Oh right, lots of people were yawning."

"At what time?"

"At the second afternoon bell, I think? Even though it was the time when I was usually awake and hungry, I felt really sleepy so I went straight home, I think."

And apparently, she was a vampire when she came to.

--No, wait.

Something bothered me with what she said.

"You think?"

"Un, I don't really remember what happened after I felt sleepy."

It seems like her memories are quite fragmented.

I tried to probe for her missing memories with mind magic as a form of hypnotherapy, but I only found out that there was nothing unnatural involved, like memory deletion or tampering through some means.

The seemingly nobleman that drew water with a pot at the fountain is the most suspicious.

The unusual jerky and the hunter with a dog are suspicious too, but it's impossible for them to be involved with the vampire incident.

The bug is suspicious too with the bloodsucking thing and all, but these fiction on earth-like stuff like turning people into vampires by means of insects can't possibly exist in this world.

Just in case, I contacted my beloved high elf Aze-san at the Boruenan forest, Hikaru who was acting as the founder king, and the [Master of Forbidden

Library] princess Sistina through space magic [Telephone], and re-confirmed that the only ways to create vampires are through the three methods found in my documents and a ritual to bring forth True Ancestor.

"Now then, what to do with these kids..."

Apparently, my whisper was heard, as the kids began to hug each other while looking terrified.

I forgot about the outstanding senses of vampires.

"Don't worry, no need to get frightened. At the very least, we're not going to kill you."

These kids have no Crime of harming people carved on their status.

They must have been terrified and fled here.

I asked them about their ages and their family names, but I couldn't find those names in the country with Map search.

Unfortunately, they seem to have passed away during the vampire incident.

"Liza, please take care of things here for a bit."

I entrusted the kids' safety to Liza, teleported to the True Ancestor Ban's castle in the labyrinth's lower layer, and requested them to take the kids and cats into custody.

Of course, they asked me back for compensations, but they readily agreed to my request while also using this opportunity to kill their time.

Well, compensations here mean three bottles of a cheap wine [Lesseu's Blood], so it's really just for form's sake.



"Suspicious nobleman?"

"Aah, you must be talking about Prof from the 『Sage's Tower』. He came to this country to conduct a research or something, methink?"

Sage's Tower should be the name of a city state where the Karion Main Temple resides.

Apparently, there were reports of suspicious individuals sighted by the citizens, one of the guard even dropped by to question him.

"Do you know his name?"

"Ah, I sure do. It was Shigan Saga or something."

--Saga?

"Is it perhaps."

"Yea, forgot if it was illegitimate child or grandchild prince, the stuff about having 100th seat for the succession got a laugh out of me."

A family member of Saga Emperor huh... The fishiness has been turned up to eleven.

I should search the Map just in case.

--There he is.

Or rather, was.

Shigan Saga has become a corpse in a forest near the capital city.

There's no other corpses around him in the Map.

Checking with space magic [Clairvoyance], he had been outfitted with thief-like attires, his face had been crushed, and there was nothing in his belonging that could be used to trace back his identity.

Well, Appraisal skill should be able to identify him to an extent, but there's no way anyone would dispatch an appraiser to a mountain where a bandit's corpse was found, neither would they carry a bandit's body down the mountain.

Judging from the situation, high chance he was killed to silence him.

I had declared that [There is no next time] when I put the [Damocles's Sword] in the emperor's bedroom, so even with the circumstantial evidences, I'm hard pressed to conclude that Saga Empire is behind this vampire incident.

I should investigate Saga Empire once again, which means I ought to meet Meiko at Dragg Kingdom.

I was planning to go ahead to the next trial after escorting Rusus and Fifi there, but the plan has changed.

I let out a small sigh as the plan that's gone awry crossed my mind.

16-51. Guardian Dragon

Satou here. In many of earth mythologies, dragons are said to be equal to gods, an existence that slays gods. That it's been demoted to be a mere [good farming] monster must be because the popularization of home RPGs, no?



"Cross over the mountain range and it's tropic."

This is normal in a world where climate is controlled by City Cores, but I just can't brush off the fantastical feels.

After leaving Tokiswolk Kingdom that had been partially destroyed by vampires, we got out of the long and narrow monster dominion facing north and arrived at Dragg Kingdom.

It's a curiously hot country with subtropical-like vegetation.

"This looks like a good country with lots of meat around."

"Woulda been fun if they were a wee bit stronger."

"I'd love the deck to be a bit wider too."

Liza, Rusus and Fifi who had been dealing with flying monsters that were coming to attack the airship gave their own subjective impressions each.

"Satou-sama, a Ride Beast is coming from one o'clock direction."

A voice came through the speaking tube from the cockpit.

The Ride Beast is most likely coming for us, but I don't think it'll suddenly attack without warning.

I look at one o'clock direction.

--A richly-colored parrot?

According to AR readings, it seems to be a phantasmal beast called Elder Parrot.

Seeing someone riding the parrot, I realize that it's this country's Parrot Rider.

"Looks like they're from Dragg Kingdom to meet us."

I waved at the Parrot Rider while saying that to the speaking tube.

The knight appears to be human at a glance, but he has a lizard tail like that of Liza.

Judging from the scale's color, it's probably a bluescale-kin young man.

Checking the Map, I see that half of this country's population is that of scalekin. Lots of humans too as usual, but even then they're only 30% of the total.

Following after the Parrot Rider, we arrived at a vacant lot that had been repurposed into a temporary airport.

"Huh? There's two ships?"

"Did someone other than Meiko come by here?"

There are two airships with Saga Empire's emblem on them moored in the airport.

A medium sized cruiser and a slightly smaller destroyer.

Looking at the raised flags, the cruiser seems to be Meiko's ship.



"--Are you here to laugh?"

Hero Meiko derided herself while pouting.

She looks pitiful with bandages all over her body as she lays on bed.

According to her attendants, it appears that she went and picked a fight with the Guardian Dragon of Dragg Kingdom, the green dragon, and had the tables turned on her instead.

Apparently, she was thrown into the air by earth magic before she could get close to the dragon, then she was shot by the dragon's diffused breath midair, resulting in her current state.

From what I can tell, her condition has gotten quite better compared to when

she left Shiga Kingdom back then.

The damage on her Soul Vessel seems to have been restored too, god Parion must have mended it.

"We're not gonna laugh at you."

Rusus and Fifi shook their heads.

"Having the gal to challenge a dragon alone is amazing."

"I don't like you, but I don't hate that battle obsessed part of you."

They pet Meiko's head while smiling frankly, while the recipient herself looks unwilling.

"Good grief, and I didn't oppose you to meet the guardian dragon since you said you wouldn't fight it..."

A droopy eyed civil official moaned.

She seems to be hero Meiko's attendant.

There's other civil official-type attendants around too, but all of them are unfamiliar faces.

Since the previous members were apparently annihilated during the divine punishment, it must have been reshuffled.

A scalekin dragon priestess is also present in this room, but she appears to be a personnel of this country, not an attendant of Hero Meiko.

Her face is well-featured, but rather than beautiful, the word dignified fits her more.

"I wanna have a match too."

"Yeah, you just can't get enough of battles to the limit."

I got a slight headache to hear Rusus and Fifi's battle junkie-like remarks.

"I shall guide you if you wish to fight the guardian dragon."

The dragon priestess easily gave her permission.

"Then, I will too."

"You can't. And the person over there too, please refrain from it."

Liza was eager to take part in it, but the dragon priestess shook her head as she looked at me.

"Why can't Satou and Liza?"

"My intuition."

The dragon priestess replied Rusus's question.

"Were these two fight, dragon-sama would likely forget to hold back."

Even without considering a huge part of the dragon continent turned into barren land because the ancient dragon was too engrossed in its fight against a demon lord, I could really understand what she was saying.

The black dragon Heiron and the lesser dragons at the eastern Siruga Kingdom also go nuts when they fight after all.

"By the way, shouldn't you treat her with magic and potions?"

"Having her raked over the coals like this once a while will be a good experience for her."

I got that reply when I whispered to one of the attendants who also happened to be a Parion temple priest.

Trivially, it seems the idiom of raking someone over the coals has been passed on to Saga Empire from one of the heroes among generations.



"Ain't that a true dragon!"

Rusus's scream echoed in the green dragon's nest the dragon priestess led us to.

Its nest is located at the peak of a sacred mountain soaring high to the north of Dragg Kingdom's royal capital.

Although I had no plan to fight it, I wanted to see the dragon thus Liza and I went with them.

"Will you secede from fighting then?"

"We ain't suicidal enough to fight a true dragon yep."

"It's a 『fight to the death』 instead of a 『fight to the limit』 when yer' up against a true dragon."

Rusus and Fifi shook their head vigorously at the dragon priestess's question.

AR readings indicate that the green dragon is a level 69 true dragon.

Perhaps, it's the parent of the infant dragon that's staying with me.

Liza stepped forward before Rusus and Fifi who flinched back.

"Then, allow me to."

"Like I said, you're not allowed to."

The dragon priestess immediately rejected Liza's proposal.

It's unusual to see Liza dejected.

...Were you really that eager to fight, Liza.

Suddenly, wind blows.

One of the green dragon's eyelids opened languorously.

That eye turned at me and stopped.

『You the human over there. And the lizardkin girl. I could smell black dragon on you.』

The green dragon muttered in dragon language.

Since the dragon priestess here also has [Dragon Language] skill, I can't speak carelessly here.

『Yes, we have just met him at his residence in the black dragon mountain.』

『I see. Is that guy still--』

Green dragon looks straight at me.

『--obsessed with battles?』

『He does love to fight. He was fighting gleefully in the desert the other day.』

『I see. That guy is still the same as always, eh.』

Green dragon squinted its eyes while smiling wryly at my reply.

The green dragon raises its head and begins to sing in an unbelievably clear voice in spite of its looks.

While listening to the wonderful song, I could hear the sounds of rubbing grass.

Flowers around the green dragon are growing rapidly, a variety of rare herbs and pretty flowers are blooming about.

A spring was born in the center of it all, dragon spring sake with sweet fragrance gushed forth.

"--Dragon Festive Song."

The dragon priestess muttered in delirium.

Once the green dragon's done singing, it grew its tongue out and drank the dragon spring sake.

『Have a drink. It's my thanks for bringing news about an old friend.』

『Then allow me to keep you company.』

I took out an especially big mug from my Storage through the Garage Bag, drew the sake, made an air toast and put it in my mouth.

--This is good stuff.

It's sweeter than black dragon Heiron's spring sake, dense fragrance oozes out of my nose from inside my mouth.

The others were also eager to have a drink, so I handed them their own glasses after getting the permission from the green dragon.

The dragon priestess who looked the most eager said, "This will be the temple's treasure!", and held it close in her bosom without having even a sip.

I asked the green dragon if it wanted snack to go along with the sake as my thanks--

『Marine products would be nice. Either fresh kraken or Shell Tuna is fine.』

『I have some kraken with me. But not Shell Tuna, would you be alright with whales?』

『Whales? Do you mean the Northern Gluttonous Fish? Those things eat even my breath, and are quick to dive deep, I'm impressed you could catch them. I've always wanted to taste one. Gimme some.』

I took some huge slices of kraken and whales out of my Garage Bag, roasted them and gave them to the green dragon.

Everyone besides Liza was exaggerating when they were surprised at the spilling plates, but when you talk about dragon spring sake, steak on iron plates naturally has to be there.

We enjoyed the feast with green dragon and went down the mountain came dusk.

After hearing the dragon priestess talking about, "A huge monster that challenged the green dragon and was driven away" while we were going down the mountain, Rusus and Fifi went off to fight with it.

They're true to their desires, or rather, those girls' people sure love to fight.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"There's so many unusual looking ingredients here."

"Master, found lots of weird fruits, so I report."

Lulu and Nana said so while looking around the stalls and booths.

Since Rusus and Fifi were gone, I'm currently having a tour around the town with the girls, it's been awhile since the last one.

Since they haven't been in subtropical places like this much, they look to be having fun.

"Unyunyunyunyu~?"

"Hmm, I still don't get what's so good about green bananas."

"Pineapples are very tasty nodesuyo?"

Bananas and pineapples are apparently local specialty here, but unripe bananas are not well received among the girls.

I'll make them ripe enough using the original spell I created in the southern island back then.

I forgot that I had created such magic until Arisa pointed it out.

Many of those magic were made impromptu on the site, and lots were never used again.

"Even if it's local specialty, putting fruits in stir-fry is a bit much..."

Looks like Princess Sistina can't stand pineapples in her sweet-and-sour pork.

"Good food bear no sin."

"Delishlish~"

"Delishas nanodesu."

Lady Karina and the girls who aren't picky about their food savor theirs without any prejudice.

Sera and Zena-san who saw that also went to have a taste.

"Would you like some fruit juice?"

"Thank you. Satou-san."

"I'm sorry, I should have gone to purchase it instead."

Sera accepted her cup normally, Zena-san did so while apologizing.

I'd love for her to be more unreserved in this kind of stuff, but it seems difficult for the serious Zena-san to stop caring about the gap in our positions.

"Satou."

Mia is looking up at me while holding a native dress in front of her body.

"That looks good on you, Mia."

Might as well purchase clothing and accessories native to Dragg Kingdom for the girls.

While we were at it, I rented a room at a random hotel and had the girls put on local fashion.

Of course I've put on tropical clothes myself too.

"Ah, it's chocolate!"

After changing, we went around the town, then Arisa ran out when she saw chocolate drink.

"Ugee, it's bitter."

Arisa frowned after having a sip.

The stall owner asked Arisa if she wanted honey with it while laughing to see that.

Seems like sugar is expensive in this country.

This is my first time drinking chocolate drink with honey, it's a novel idea.

The taste itself is good.

"Master, it's the market over there! They're selling lots of dried fruits there!"

Lulu is in high spirits.

Dried fruits that are relatively expensive in Shiga Kingdom are very cheap here in this country.

Lulu appeared to have a soft spot on [Affordable], she went around one stall after another with Arisa.

I bought a huge amount of dried fruits that Lulu took a fancy on, and shared them with the brownies at the solitary island palace, and Echigoya Firm's folks.

Of course, I shared some to Core Two, demon lord Shizuka, and the former demon lord fox girl too.



"--No suspicious activity huh."

I went to Saga Empire after enjoying our first normal sightseeing tour after a long while.

After all, the person who was acting suspiciously during the vampire incident at Tokiswolk Kingdom was from Saga Empire.

Tactician Touya and the plain-faced reincarnated person who have markers on them are happily managing an alchemy shop together at a town near their hideout.

Looking at their expressions, tactician Touya had this sour look like that of a just-married couple, but the wife, the plain-faced reincarnated person, was all smiles like she was truly happy.

Please, do live on in peace without holding some unnecessary ambitions from now on.

The mastermind behind him hasn't shown themselves like usual.

They're probably lying in wait somewhere while keeping a lookout on me.

Just in case, I'm sending a sesame seed-sized surveillance golem to tactician Touya and the plain-faced reincarnated person's alchemy store.

The new emperor seems to be pretty busy putting up a new system in the empire after his enthronement, doesn't seem like he can afford to meddle with other countries.

After we've finished checking on the administration, we walked down the imperial capital's streets.

I was thinking of gathering info about the rather mysterious Hero Fuu while we were here at the capital.

Since he's not in my Map, he's probably somewhere I don't know about after leaving the imperial capital.

"Satou."

Mia who had come here with me went and hugged me.

"Master, we went asking around, and although lots of people knew about the four heroes, no one had any idea about Hero Fuu."

"Mwu."

Arisa who came back after Mia brushed Mia aside and pushed her own face on my stomach.

I peeled away Arisa as she was sniffing on me, and asked Mia.

"Ask, spirits?"

"Dryad huh..."

I don't mind having a large amount of my mana sucked, but the way she does it is problematic.

"Guess I have no choice."

I reluctantly summoned Dryad, however--

"Don't ask me. I mean, I can't distinguish between humans."

--Thus, she replied.

Even though she could tell if it was me in particular, she doesn't seem to know which one is Hero Fuu.

I had residential officials and civil officials of Shiga Kingdom who stayed at Saga Empire introduce me to scholars experts about Vampires, and acquired their knowledge.

As far as they're concerned, turning someone into a vampire by way of water or insects is just impossible.

Well, the true ancestor Ban and Corpse who live in Selbira Labyrinth's lower layer also said the same when I asked them while I was sending Tokiswolk Kingdom's vampires to them for protection, so asking scholars around is just a complement to it.

However, there was a curious exception.

There were records about [Vampire Demon Lord] who could produce more vampires through curses.

Though since the method required an [Artifact] that originated from the demon god along with the demon lord's Unique Skill, we probably don't have to take that into considerations in this matter.

According to them, the hero who defeated the [Vampire Demon Lord] also destroyed the artifact.

"Being told that it's impossible makes you all the more curious instead."

"Hnn, agreed."

Arisa said so on our way back from the scholar's residence.

"For examples?"

"They were bitten by bugs right? Maybe that was the vector that caused people to turn into vampires?"

"Possibly."

Mia nodded at the haphazard guess that Arisa said with a serious expression on her face.

It might be possible if we were talking about normal diseases, but I don't see any suspicious insects through Miasma Sight, and it's not like the vampires here are like their earthen counterpart as they need to do rituals to create more of them in this world.

"We've been introduced to several more scholars, let's try visiting them all for now."

I told the two and went to one scholar residence after another.

Unfortunately, all the scholars agreed that insects and water can't be the source of contagion.

One of the scholars told me that there was a case where a vampire came out of Saga Empire's [Bloodsucking Labyrinth] and escaped outside the empire's territory.

The scholar postulated that maybe that vampire built numerous settlements in monster domains while stealthily increase their number before attacking Tokiswolk Kingdom.

I think this hypothesis seems more probable than Arisa's for this incident.

Checking monster domains inside and around Saga Empire on my Map, there really are several vampire settlements in them.

For the time being, there isn't a single Vampire Lord around.

I ignore the settlements that are living peacefully and report the ones that do problematic activities like pillaging to the neighboring empire's garrisons.

"Oh right! You mentioned a demon lord that records the world's secrets on slates with his Unique Skill before right. Can't we find the culprit on those slates?"

"Good idea."

Mia's eyes are sparkling at Arisa's idea.

"It probably won't work y'know?"

In the first place, if we knew that much, I would have known about the mastermind's identity and location too by now.

"Huh, why?"

"Just like news on televisions, only events that piqued the record keeper's interests are written on the slates."

Only stuff the troll demon lord found interesting are written on those slates, so the information there is quite inclined to one-side.

After finishing our business in Saga Empire, we tried checking on the slates since we might find some info.

"Yup, it's a miss."

"Nn."

Checking the slates, as I thought, there's no important info.

The part about Vampire Lord' atrocities and Rusus and Fifi's thrilling battles were written on around 300 slates, but important info like [Where the vampires came from] or [What was their goal attacking a country] was completely absent.

There are records about Hero Yuki beating the Land King that had turned into undead at Sania Kingdom before the Vampire Lord part, but there is nothing written after the Vampire Lord part until Rusus and Fifi's arena battles.

Looks like Rusus and Fifi are the most recent favorites of the troll demon lord.

As it all depends on what the troll demon lord find interesting at the time, these slates are only useful for additional stuff that "we're in luck if it's recorded."

Well, from this investigation I can almost safely conclude that my fear about the vampire incident being "A plot by someone hiding in the darkness of Saga Empire" to be unfounded, so it's time to get back on clearing trials.

As for the investigation about the goal of Saga Empire's royalty found dead at Tokiswolk Kingdom, I've forwarded the written report about it to Shiga Kingdom's king and prime minister through Hikaru, I'll leave all additional investigations to them.

If I don't limit my involvements to [Catastrophes that are out of the local people's hands], I'd be gradually burdened with more things I need to do, eventually turning it into a literal death march.

Now then, next we're heading to the city-state Kariswolk where the main temple of God Karion resides, also known as, the [Sage's Tower].

I'm looking forward to touring the [Sage's Tower] more than the trial itself.

16-52. Sage's Tower (1)

Satou here. One of my friends from university days told me that only geniuses are capable of solving problems left unsolved by ordinary men their whole life.

However, even if it's geniuses who overcome the last step, I think it's the persistent efforts of us ordinary men that tread down the path right before that last step.



"Waa, snow country~"

"The snow is bow-wow all over the places nodesu!"

Arisa and Pochi jumped into the snow like puppies who had just seen snow for the first time.

We arrived at the city state Kariswolk where Karion main temple is located.

I realized that I was overthinking about [God's Backdoors] from previous trials, and so I went with all members who had times on this occasion.

The territory where this city state is located is currently snowing, thus [Sage's Tower], which is also another name for the city, is hidden by the heavily falling snow, we can't see it here from outside the city.

"Geez, Arisa. You're going to catch a cold."

With a 'dear me' expression, Lulu scolded Arisa and Pochi who went on to create snow angels while laughing.

Hearing that, Lady Karina who was late to join in with the two stopped herself from jumping with an awkward look on her face.

Well, Princess Sistina and Sera's scolding time would have waited for her if she did jump.

"Mia, hoping for a snow rabbit."

"Nn, leave it to me."

Nana carefully scooped out snow in her hand and requested Mia to make her a rabbit model out of snow.

"Snug snug~?"

Tama who's piggybacking me hugs my head while purring.

"Tama, get down. You're troubling Master."

"Tama can't~?"

"I don't really mind."

Scolded by Liza, Tama asked for my permission while looking dejected so I gave her the ok.

"Satou, will ancestor king--Mito-sama come along too?"

"Yes, but she's got some business to attend to this morning, I think she will join us in the afternoon."

I replied to Princess Sistina as she looked around.

Looks like she wasn't present when I invited Hikaru while she was going out.

"Satou-san, as ordered, I've told that side we don't need the carriage coming

for us."

"Thanks again, Zena-san."

Zena-san who had gone ahead to the city's gate with Flight magic came back.

"Well then, let's get going once Sera-san is here."

I gaze at the kids playing with snow after saying that.

"I'm sorry to keep you waiting."

"No no, don't worry about it."

After a bit, Sera who had dressed herself came down the airship.

Apparently she dislikes cold, thus she was going to go out in thick clothing, but after I told about the perfect effectiveness of my magical temperature control with, she went and changed to light dresses.

I didn't use the magic during our trip to the eastern snowy Kiwolk Kingdom since I wanted us all to enjoy snow kingdom to the fullest, but I'm using the

magic here since wearing thick clothing would hinder our mobility.

"Well then, let's go."

I told the girls and stepped forward toward the city gate beyond the snow field.



"Icicles~?"

"It kinda looks tasty nanodesu."

"Ahaha, wanna try putting strawberry syrup on it and have a taste later?"

"Nn, blue calpis."

The kids are laughing while reaching out to the icicles hanging on the windows and roofs of houses here.

Mia seems to like it blue.

"But really, it's pure white desuwa."

"This is what they call blanket of snow."

Princess Sistina replied to Lady Karina.

"It doesn't look like there's a stall in this season here."

"Instead, there's lots of home stores around."

The doors and windows are small so these houses look like private houses, but there are signboards drawn with pictures signifying dinery and bar hung on the front doors.

I wonder if the fact that there's a lot more rental library than other countries here is due to Sage's Tower?

"Is that perhaps the main temple?"

"The holy mark of God Karion is carved on the front wall, that must be it."

Sera answered Zena-san's question.

Karion Main Temple is a building that looks like ice.

It's not actually made of ice, the building is built with crystal reinforced with earth magic.

"Sparkly~?"

"It's transparent nanodesu!"

"A building made of ice desuwa!"

"Well, there are people who cross over galaxies with a spaceship made of ice after all, no surprise here too right?"

Arisa said so while mentioning an episode in a space opera about a great man that founded a democratic nation.

She herself intended that to be a joke, but since Pochi, Tama and Lady Karina seemed like they were about to believe her for real, I told them that this was made of crystal.

I went inside the temple with the girls.

"I thought it'd be full of priests, but there's a surprising number of scholars here."

Just as Arisa said, there's lots of priests and scholars here.

Including the priests, most of the people coming and going out of the temple are wearing gray robes, so it's hard to tell them apart.

"Apparently there's a library deep inside the temple, you see."

"Hee, do you think it's open to the public?"

"I wonder?"

Looking at the library's Map, only scholars related to [Sage's Tower] and students studying under these scholars' private schools are inside the library.

"Pink~?"

"If I had to say, isn't it more vermilion?"

Statues made of vermilion rock salt are lined up in the chapel.

Looks like Tama sees those statues as pink colored.

"Welcome to Karion Main Temple, visitors from a foreign country. What do you seek here, recovery, or blessing?"

A gentle-looking male priest came to greet us.

"No, I'm here to take on God Karion's trial."

"T-trial? Do you wish to inspect the library for the 『Pursuit of Truth』? Or do you mean, trial in its 『Truest Sense』?"

"I would love to get the permission to inspect the library, however, I'm here today to take on the trial in its 『Truest Sense』."

"P-please wait for a moment!"

The male priest went back inside in a hurry.

Other temples seemed to have received a messages about me, did this temple not get it, I wonder?

"T-Thank you very much for waiting."

After a while, the priest earlier came back with a strict-looking temple head, several high ranking priests and a young miko.

"Pleased to meet you, 『Challenger of God's Trial』. I'm 『Oracle Miko』 who serves upon God Karion, my name is Maiya."

"I'm Earl Satou Pendragon of Shiga Kingdom. It's an honor to meet Miko Maiya-dono."

Miko Maiya greeted with an earnest look.

This Miko-san and her serious-looking expression would look good in female teacher fashion.



『--O God. O prudent God whom we revere.』

After the same old procedures, I proceeded to contact God Karion with Miko Maiya's lead.

A bright light fell down the heavens to answer miko's call.

It's a pleasant vermilion light.

The ecstatic expression on miko's face turned flat.

She's entered the trance state.

『...What a pain.』

A child voice of unknown gender echoed in my head.

I think that was God Karion's voice, but the line was cut off along with that word.

I caught the falling miko and quickly checked the Log.

>Title [Mark of Karion] Acquired

>Title [One Approved by God Karion] Acquired

I had feared that I failed, but doesn't seem to be any problem.

"...Earl Pendragon."

The sweaty miko-san looks up at me with flushed cheeks.

Quite sexy.

"You must have found God Karion's revelation to be deeply meaningful, haven't you?"

The miko is looking at me expecting for my affirmation, but it's a bit hard to comply to that.

I don't idolize god Karion enough to feel the deepness of that [What a pain].

"The words earlier had the meaning of 『There is only one trial given to those who seek it. Repeating the same words would only waste time, pursue the temple's records』."

The miko quietly spun her words.

She's quite a lively miko considering she just went through a contact with god.

"And the trial is 『Go to Sage's Tower, inside, pick and solve one among the problems that have been left unsolved for more than 100 years.』"

That sounds kind of fun.

I've gotten the mark already so it's not like I've got to do the trial anyway, but it'd be troublesome if they tried to find fault later on.

God Karion might have given the mark to me just as an advance payment after all.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Your excellency, over there is Sage's Tower."

Miko Maiya pointed at a stone-made large tower as her glasses reflected

light.

The miko has taken upon herself to show us around the Sage's Tower, but for some reason she's changed her outfit from [Oracle Miko] to [Female Teacher Fashion]. Complete with triangular glasses.

Apparently, it's a traditional outfit introduced by a hero donned whenever she visits the Sage's Tower.

"No matter how you look at it, the character-making is way too much~"

"Nn, excessive."

Arisa and Mia had that conversation behind my back.

Well, I'm actually in agreement here, but the tight skirt looks very much perfect on Miko Maiya, so I have no intention to point out the excessiveness.

Feels like Arisa and the girls would cosplay as one if I carelessly blurted it out.

Inside a building made of stone at the base of the tower, scholars and students are exchanging opinions in the entrance hall and passages here and there.

『According to the documents from Furu Empire's era, the magic circle inside fire wands is--』

『Fundamental differences in mana supply between magic cannons that exist today and magic cannons from Magic Kingdom Lalakie--』

『I proclaim that we could clear up monster dominions without wasting human resources by making use of Soul Art considered forbidden!』

『To produce clean water through water gems in desert areas, the mane of kelpie as a catalyst would be--』

There's a lot of discussions related to military technology for such a place of learning.

It's probably because the close proximity of monster threats here, that military technology dedicated to strengthen city defence feels close to people in a different way than in modern times.

"Pink~"

"There's statues over here too nodesu!"

"They look different from the statues we saw at the temple."

Tama and the girls found rock salt statues scattered in the entrance hall with their sharp eyes.

"From here on is where the scholars are doing their research, therefore I would have to ask for a minimum number of people--"

Miko Maiya told us so in front of a spiral staircase at the deepest part of the entrance hall.

Arisa, Mia and Princess Sistina, aka the researchers, are coming with us, while the other members have been tasked by me to trail-blaze stores that sell tasty stuff intended for scholars and students around the tower.

We climb up the stairs to the topmost part of the tower with miko Maiya leading.

Since Arisa and the girls complained that they were tired halfway through, I created [<<Floating Boards>>] with Force magic and put them on board.

And then we came to a room at the top.

"Miko Maiya, if you're here that means that man is?"

"Yes, Sage Kanryu. This gentleman here is Earl Satou Pendragon, he's taken on

God Karion's trial."

The kind-looking old man with white beard appears to be a sage.

"Welcome, Satou-kun. I hope to witness you work out an answer to the unsolved problems here."

Sage Kanryu smiled profoundly as he said that.

Now then, what kind of problems are left unsolved for 100 years?

I would prefer if it doesn't take too long to solve.

16-53. Sage's Tower (2)

Satou here. Keeping stuff tidy and in order, be it data or things, so you can readily get them anytime you need it is a form of talent, I think. You tend to forget where you put things right when you need to get them, don't you.



"--Are all these?"

I reflexively muttered that when I looked up at huge piles of old scrolls and books in front of me.

We were led to a room beyond Sage Karyu's, the principal, room.

I'm here to solve an [unsolved problem that has remained so for 100 years] as part of God Karion's Trial, but looking at these piles makes me get cold feet a bit.

Well, since I'm only supposed to solve one problem among these, there's no need to get so worked up.

"The number of problems themselves doesn't even reach 30. Most of these are investigations and memos left by the past scholars."

Sage Karyu told me so while stroking his long white beard.

"These here are the original scripts, but you can find the copies in the Great Library in this tower, while the problems themselves have been carved on the pedestals of the red salt statues on the first floor so anyone could read it if they so desire."

I see, the statues in the entrance hall carry such a role huh.

According to Sage Karyu, there are other red salt statues carrying a similar role situated in God Zaikuon main temple's chapel and inside the city itself.

As those statues have been reinforced with earth magic, they're holding up fine being outdoors.

"Then, maybe it's a good idea to look around the statues before picking a problem?"

"Nn, more efficient."

"Umu, umu. That's exactly right, missies."

Sage Karyu smiled as he replied to Arisa and Mia's conversation.

"I shall give the key to this library to Satou-kun. You can get to this library from the passages. You can read the documents here anytime you want, however you're not allowed to take them out with you. As their value cannot be understated, take care not to damage them."

"Yes, I will take the utmost care."

Sage Karyu handed over ID bracelets to us along with the key.

We can freely enter the Great Library some floors below as long as we have these.

"So this is the 『Ring of Wisdom』 of 『Sage's Tower』..."

Princess Sistina is gazing movingly at the bracelet she holds in her hands.

Looks like it's a kind of amazing item.



"Would you like to go to Great Library first? Or do you want to check the red salt statues?"

Apparently, Miko Maiya is going to continue acting as our guide.

Looking at the girls, their faces screamed 'I wanna go to the Great Library'.

"Well then, please show us the way to the library first."

We're headed to the Great Library two floors below Sage Karyu's room.

Three levels of this huge tower are filled with bookshelves, and one of those levels is an archive that's not open to public. It's not an archive of banned books, the archive is housing incomplete written memo and book collections of scholars that didn't have a successor. According to my Map, the forbidden library here is located deep underground.

"Lots."

"More than master's library even."

"I think there's about as many books as both the Royal Academy's and Forbidden Archive's libraries put together?"

The girls gave their impressions while looking around at the bookshelves.

The amount of books befit the name Great Library indeed.

It did feel a bit odd for a small City-state nation Kariswolk to have more books than a big kingdom such as Shiga Kingdom, but I got the reason why after checking the author's names of these books with my Map Search.

A great majority of them are books written by scholars belonging here and books written and donated by scholars who were staying here for a time.

"Arisa-chan, Space Lens Eye!"

Arisa survey the books' spines with her space magic reinforced eyesight while saying 'Bikaa' out loud.

"Mwu, unfair."

"Mia-sama, here's a telescope. I brought some along with me since I thought this would happen."

"Tina, nice."

Princess Sistina took a telescope from her magic bag and gave it to Mia.

"Found the first edition of Magic Complete Works!"

"They have the extra issue of Selmaraya Earth Magic Encyclopedia here!"

"Mwu, which."

The girls are getting excited to see rare books.

I stopped Arisa from charging in at the bookshelves to prevent her bothering other people here and went there with her.

I reached the book Arisa's hand couldn't reach.

"--You there!"

A stern sounding voice stopped me, so I turned at the source of that voice.

A beautiful woman wearing eyesight-correcting spectacles stood there with perked up shoulders.

"This is the Bookshelves of Scarlet Floor where only scholars and officiating monks with permission can enter! Take the primary grade kid and away with you now!"

"H-hold on! Excuse me--"

I blocked Arisa's mouth as she was about to object and showed the wrist of my other hand that wasn't reaching the bookshelves at the woman.

"Do you have a problem with--eh? 『Ring of Wisdom』? Why does an adolescent kid have that?"

"Sage Karyu-dono had given these to us."

"N-no way."

"Librarian Besse, he's telling the truth."

"M-Miko Maiya-sama!"

Miko Maiya who came with Princess Sistina after us talked to her.

Seems like they're acquaintances.

"His Excellency Earl Pendragon has taken on God Karion's trial."

"W-what--"

The librarian who became speechless seemed like she found Miko Maiya's explanation hard to believe, but she immediately straightened herself and apologized to us.

I'm glad Miko Maiya came with us.

It probably would have taken some time to convince her with just these bracelets.

"Please give your orders to me or the librarian at the desk if you need a book. As an apology for my impoliteness earlier, I shall make frantic efforts to provide assistants."

Well, thanks to this little incident, we managed to get acquainted with librarian-san amiably, all's well.

"Hey, how many books here can we borrow at once?"

"I'm very sorry, but the books here cannot be lent. Please read them at the reading room, or hire transcribers affiliated with Great Library if you wish to make a copy."

"Can the chained books over there be transcribed too?"

Princess Sistina points her fingers at bookshelves and books that have been chained down to prevent theft.

There's even an iron grill in front of the bookshelves.

"Those books are prohibited from getting transcribed. You can write the part you have memorized, however, transcribing straight from the bookshelves is prohibited."

According to the librarian, they're not of banned books kind, however the books contain dangerous knowledge that could prove bad were they taken out indiscreetly, thus the spread of information has been limited.

"I'll be heading to the entrance hall to check on the statues' pedestals there, Arisa and you girls, are you staying here?"

"Un, I'll do it later."

"Library won't run away."

After thinking a bit, Arisa said so and Mia nodded at her reply.

"...That's right. It's not going anywhere."

Princess Sistina, the former master of Forbidden Library, looked to be a bit regretful to part from here, but she forcefully convinced herself about it and went with us.



"『What is miasma?』, 『What is mana?』, 『What is spirit?』, 『What is a soul?』-- These are problems that have existed since the founding of 『Sage's Tower』 huh."

"They're intriguing and all, but there's no way we could solve one in a day."

"Nn, difficult."

Since these weren't recorded in the books the elves had, I should just leave these fundamental questions to the researchers.

"What do you think about this one?"

"Did you find something good?"

"Look."

Beckoned by Princess Sistina, Arisa and Mia came to her.

"『For what reason do Labyrinths exist?』 huh?"

As a dungeon master myself, the mystery hit a bit too close to home.

There were numerous theories about it contained in the books at Shiga Kingdom, but nothing was decisive.

Let's memo it down as a candidate.

Perhaps I could get an answer if I asked Dungeon Core about this.

"These ones here are similar, just replace labyrinths with monsters and demons."

It's easy to come up with these questions after all.

There was nothing about City Cores, since its existence is hidden to public.

And so, the girls and I continued to read unsolved problems carved on the pedestals.

Curiously enough, there was no stuff like [Who made labyrinths?], [Who made skills?], or [For what reason do levels exist?].

In a world where gods exist in reality, people probably think that gods created

those.

Considering how God Karion was like during our conversation back then, doesn't seem like they'll answer a question after all.

"『What's the difference between demon lords that get revived and those that don't?』 eh... Master, do you know about this?"

"I wonder?"

As far as I know, only two demon lords have gotten revived, the [Golden Wild Boar King] and the [Dog-head Ancient King].

Their common feature is that both had [True Demon Lord] title, but if that were really the requirement for it, it'd have been made clear once I checked Saga Empire's documents, so it's probably not that.

The Boar King was revived with the help of demon lord adherents and greater demons, but the Dog-head seemed like he just revived on his own at Selbira Labyrinth, thus it's difficult to declare that these revivals need other people carrying out a revival ceremony.

"Master, this is..."

Arisa was at a loss for words while pointing at a pedestal next to her.

Written there is, "What is the condition for the demon lords to manifest in this world?"

I could give the answer to that right here and now, but this is one unsolved problem that absolutely has to remain unsolved.

A tragedy on the level of witch hunt would befall reincarnated people if the truth were to be known.

Yup, I never saw this problem, nuh uh.

"Satou."

I went to Mia as she called.

"Intriguing."

She's pointing at a pedestal written with "How does one achieve chantless magic?"

Princess Sistina who came after me was also piqued enough to say, "Let's get

to the bottom of this!", however, just like how chant shortening could only be achieved through skills, I think chantless magic could only be done through Unique Skill like in my and Arisa's cases.

"That's not necessarily true, no? Like, you can use magic without skills if you work hard on it, right. If you can act as the proxy that does the magic calculation instead of skills, perhaps you could do the same with the chanting part?"

Arisa insisted so.

"You're right. It does sound intriguing, wanna give it a try?"

"Try."

"Mia-sama, would you allow me to accompany you in your research?"

"Nn, welcome."

Mia and Princess Sistina seemed eager when I tried rousing their interest.

"Tell me if you need materials, I'll transcribe it for you."

"Thanks."

Afterward, I checked the rest of the pedestals.

"My? Was that all? There were less than 20 here, weren't there?"

"The remaining nine are all located close to the walls."

Guided by Miko Maiya, we went to a hard to find location near the entrance hall's front door where the rest of the pedestals were.

The statue up there looks kinda ominous.

"The ones here are more like subject matters than problems."

"『The transition of primeval magic to modern magic and variations』, 『Did level and skill not exist during the creation of the world?』, 『About the relationship between modern magic and Demon God』, 『Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead』... These are all interesting too."

I'm a bit piqued by this [The transition from primeval magic to modern magic and variations], feels like it can be solved relatively easily.

Some of the other keywords are curious too.

The second and the third ones are quite interesting, however, the fourth one, the possibility of turning undead back into living being is quite intriguing.

If it can be done, I could maybe turn the kids who had become vampires at Tokiswolk Kingdom back into humans.

There has been a case of a normal creature that had been transformed into a monster turning back into an ordinary creature, in the form of Princess Doris's pet bird, Hisui, so I don't think it's impossible.

For now, for the trial I'll check out these three, "The transition of primeval magic to modern magic and variations", "For what reason do labyrinths exist?", and "Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead", and see if I could easily solve one.

"Master, look at this."

Arisa called me when she saw the last pedestal.

It's a labyrinth-related theme.

"『How does a Dungeon Master produce magical items and monsters?』"

huh..."

True, it looks good to be a research theme.

Since there's no way to test and verify things without the help of a [Dungeon Master], it's understandable how this problem remained unsolved for more than 100 years.

This one looks to be quite easy to solve.

Though, if I did, people would then question the source of information and its authenticity, which is just troublesome.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Good work, Master."

"Welcom~"

"Welfomf bafh rarorefu."

We joined up with the rest of the girls who had gone around checking eateries.

After parting ways with Miko Maiya at Sage's Tower front entrance.

Pochi's mouth is stuffed with hodge-podge, she's frantically trying really hard to swallow it.

"Master, Sage Beans and Boiled Kariswolk Pork are tasty, so I report."

"The trout sherbet is pretty good too desuwa!"

Nana greeted me and immediately presented a bowl of hodge-podge.

Seemingly lured by Nana, Lady Karina also held out a plate with slices of frozen fish-like sashimi on top to me.

"Fish sherbet? --Ah, must be stuff that's like Rui-be huh."

Arisa sounded upset at first, but then she recalled some kind of cuisine from earth and nodded.

Apparently, you're supposed to eat this cuisine half-thawed and uncooked, but low temperature kills parasites anyway, it's a good source of vitamins in this winter season where it's difficult to obtain fresh vegetable.

"Welcome back, Satou-san."

"Please come over here. I will get you something warm to drink."

While greeting back Sera, I took the seat Zena-san offered.

As I warm myself with the ginger tea-like drink Zena-san gave me, I look around the eatery.

There's a big stove in the center of the eatery, a pot put on top of it is raising white smoke.

"Master, this salmon thingy is some good stuff."

"Pochi would like Master to eat hodge-podge too nodesu."

Arisa and Pochi offered me food.

I'll start with the lightly seasoned looking Rui-be.

Exactly like how it looks, it tastes like sherbet when you first put it in your mouth, but once inside, the heat thaws it out, spreading rich sashimi-like oily flavor in your mouth.

It tastes a bit like frozen salmon, really good. I could get addicted to this.

"This is good."

"Right~?"

Arisa looked a bit triumphant.

Losing to the gaze of Pochi who was standing next to her with an excited look on her face, I reached out to the hodge-podge.

"This one is pretty good too."

"Yes, nanodesu!"

The flavor is a bit too dense, but the spare-rib-like texture from the pressure cooking is delicious.

And the smallish soya bean-like beans mixed inside goes well with the meat flavor.

"Mia-chan, they have fried mushroom wrap here, would you like a taste?"

"Taste."

Zena-san offered Mia a dish.

Princess Sistina gracefully brought the plebeian cuisines recommended by Lulu and Sera into her mouth.

While we were having a pleasant meal in the corner of the eatery like this, I heard some clatter from the streets.

"Like I said! Demon God-sama is the forefather of modern magic, okay! He's called Demon God meaning he must be god of magic!" <TLN: 'demon' and 'magic' in this context share the same kanji '魔'.>

"This again, you demon lord devotee and your screws-missing head!"

A man and a woman who were arguing with each other entered this eatery.

The man is quite handsome himself, but the woman is one such beauty that was a bit wasted on her underling-like speech pattern.

Putting aside Lulu as a special case, the woman has this transient beauty that wouldn't look pale in comparison to the girls in my party.

"I've been saying, yer' wrong! Even if I'm a believer of Demon God-sama, I ain't no adherent of demons and demon lords! To begin with, there ain't no reliable literatures that say demons are Demon God's familiar!"

"Hmph, have you forgotten about Lalakie Monument left behind in the ruins of a civilization that existed after Lalakie civilization from the age of gods, and the epitaph found at Golden Tower of Toro Kuro!"

That's quite an interesting topic.

As the AR readings have guaranteed that the woman isn't a demon lord adherent, I stand up from my seat to get in touch with the two.

"Hello there, if it's fine with you two, could I join in your talk?"

16-54. Sage's Tower (3)

Satou Here. Reading through myths on earth, it's not rare for gods that had been worshiped since time immemorial to degenerate into lower-ranked evil gods by later belief that got popular.

And, perhaps such thing isn't an exception even in another world where gods physically exist?



"A pick up? Ya picking me up? Ooh, yer' makin' me blush! It was worth it turning into a teen after a whole lap ssuyo!"

"Shut up, 116 year--"

The good-looking young man who was with the underling-sounding beauty, whom herself was in high tension and looking bashful, dragged her to the back.

"--I haven't seen you around before, and you don't look like an inquisitor either. I won't stop you from trying if you're really going to woe this age-falsifying hag, however I'd advise against it if you don't want to be shocked in the bedroom."

The good-looking young man who got between me and the beauty had a callous look on his face.

"Yer' so mean Rakero! I'm gonna tell you on Frost Tree-chan ssuyo!"

"Do as you wish. It will be you that mentor will scold anyway. Also, if you'd please refrain from calling my mentor, 『Witch of Frost-covered Forest』, with a weird nickname."

"Then call me 『Witch of Ice Field』 instead of 'you' ssu!"

"You is good enough for you."

"So mean ssu~. Even like this I'm the great witch who rules over the 『Source of Ice Field』 ssuyou, just you know?"

According to the AR readings, the underling-sounding beauty's name and title is [Witch of Ice Field].

If what she says is true, she's a witch who rules over at least one of the Sources.

I'm a bit intrigued by ways to rule over a Source without a City Core.

"Think this skit ever gonna end?"

"Probably not?"

After replying to the tired-looking Arisa, I called out to the one of the waitresses, ordered for their shares of food and drinks, and decided to interrupt these two's skit.

As a side note, other girls besides Arisa and Zena-san are enjoying their meal at their own pace.

"--Excuse me. Rather than standing around like this, how would you like eating together with us?"

I invited the two to a vacant seat while offering the wine cup the waitress brought.

"Ehehe, this sure makes me blush ssune."

For some reason, the underling-sounding beauty--Witch-san is sitting on my lap.

"Mwu."

"Guilty!"

"That place is Tama's~?"

Faster than I could, Mia, Arisa and Tama voiced their objection.

"Lose--"

"The stuff about pick-up is a misunderstanding."

Before the witch could talk and make things get more complicated, I put her on the next seat and cleared the misunderstanding.

If it took too long, Sera and Princess Sistina would join in and the situation would get out of control.

"Really?"

Witch-san looked disappointed somehow.

"Yes, I'd like to know more about your talk earlier, 『Demon God is the forefather of modern magic』."

"Did that pique yer' interest? I'll tell ya anything you want ssuyo! But but, it'd be nice if you could add 『Sama』 suffix with respect on Demon God-sama's name ssu!"

The witch seemed happy when asked about her opinion, she got into high tension once again and pounced on my back.

She looks like a transient beauty outwardly, but her behavior is kinda like that of an old man somehow.

The good-looking young man sitting opposite to the witch sipped his wine cup after saying, "What a curious guy."

"One night won't be enough to talk about everythin' ssu. For now, do you have anything to ask me ssuka?"

"Could you tell me the basis for the belief that 『Demon God is the forefather of modern magic』?"

"Uun, there a whole lotsa to it, but the most famous one was about a sage from long ago finding a slate detailing about how Demon God-sama taught humans magic in the ruins of Lalakie Dynasty located at Tokiswolk Kingdom ssune."

"Hmph. But the Larukeria Slate left in the ruins of ancient civilization after

Lalakie civilization in the age of gods, and the Toro Kuro's golden tower definitely negated that."

The good-looking young man denied witch-san's explanation.

"How did those two negate it?"

"On the Larukeria it's written that, through a subordinate under his control the 『Dog-head Demon Lord』, demon god massacred sorcerers in the entire world, and then gave magic skills and magic letters to his followers after the genealogy of ancient sorcerers had gone extinct. While on Toro Kuro, he attempted to do the same to priests, however he incurred gods' wrath and got sealed deep in the underworld."

The young man smoothly narrated his story.

He too seems to be the type that loves to state his knowledge.

"Hold it ssu! I've been telling ya, Toro Kuro looks fabricated as heck! There are excerpts in Saga Empire's founding emperor's autobiography about his audience with Demon God-sama ssu! Same with Larukeria, it was a huge incident about a massacre of sorcerers in the entire world, and yet there's absolutely nothing about it written on other ruins from the same era ssuyo!"

This time the witch rebutted.

History is difficult.

While listening to the heated debate of the two, I use space magic [Telephone].



『Satou!』

『It has been awhile, Aze-san.』

Telephone magic carried a comforting voice to my ears.

『I heard this talk about [Demon God being the forefather of modern magic] in my journey, do you know anything about it?』

『Modern magic? Hold on a bit, I should find out once I connect to the Memory Vault. Wait for me okay.』

『Thank you. Then, I'll call you back later.』

I reluctantly cut off the call.

Since the debate is still heating up, I try to call another recipient with Telephone.

『--Hero-sama.』

『Heya, Reiane.』

Reiane is a girl belonging to an unusual [Half-Ghost] race I met when I went around [Floating Island of God] Lalakie during the Divine Punishment, she's the last queen of [Lalakie Dynasty] that has been appearing as a topic in the two's discussion.

I get down to business after asking about her recent states.

『Demon God-sama? I'm sorry, I had some experience intermingling with the seven pillar gods during my coming-of-age ceremony, however I had never done so with Demon God-sama and Dragon God-sama.』

She didn't know about the sorcerer massacre incident either when I confirmed her about it.

I also tried asking about the transition from primeval magic to modern magic but did not get a favorable response either.

『One thing I heard about, apparently Demon God-sama often mingled with people in the mortal world.』

『Mingled?』

『Yes, I heard that he was dispatched to increase the number of mortals in order to offer a vast amount of prayers and supplications to gods.』

--Dispatched?

『By whom?』

『I have no idea which, but I think it was by someone amongst the seven pillar gods.』

Looks like demon god was treated like a gofer by the seven pillar gods.

Come to think of it, Aze-san told me something along the line, [He took on the

project to build a floating castle in exchange for divinity and authority from gods] while I was investigating the shadow castle at Rumooku Kingdom.

He probably took on this errand boy-like job in a similar fashion.

After thanking Reiane and ended the call, I connected to Aze-san once again.

『Forgive me, Satou.』

She went straight to apologizing.

Judging from her tone, it must be the Demi-god Aze-san.

『Information about the pioneer of modern magic has been put under classified information by the seven pillar gods, so I cannot speak about it to anyone.』

『Please don't apologize, Aze-san.』

Rather, the fact that the gods has put restriction on it means there's really a chance of [Demon God is the forefather of modern magic] being true.

I thanked Aze-san and, although it pained me to do so, cut off the call.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Liffe I saifdh, Demon God-sama's someone brimming with kindness ssuyo!"

"Shh it, you demon god fanatic. He's a god that spread miasma and fear through demons and demon lords, whaft kind of kindness ifh thaft!"

The witch and young man's articulations are getting weirder as their discussion reached an impasse.

Despite their eagerness in opening liquor bottles, neither could hold theirs it seems.

"Hey hey, master. Listening to these two, doesn't it make you think that there are two demon gods?"

"Good point."

I half-heartedly gave an affirmation to Arisa who seemed to seriously consider that possibility.

It's not rare to arrive at a completely different interpretation after analyzing information through filters.

Fortunately, it doesn't seem like the seal of demon god sealed in the moon will get unraveled anytime soon, so there's no need to think so hard about--.

--Wait.

That's right.

The myth in this world states that [Demon God is sealed in the Moon].

I know that's nonsense since I've personally been on the moon, however that is not a common knowledge. To the point that even the Weasel Emperor and those Brains bunch didn't know about it.

And yet they said Demon God was sealed in the underworld.

Perhaps, these guys know the true information regarding Demon God's seal.

"Witch-dono--"

I tried to throw a question, but the witch and the young man are already snoring in sync with red faces.

I could rouse them up right now with magic, but looking at their blissful sleeping faces makes it hard to do that just to answer my doubt.

I ask the waitress, rent two rooms for these two drunkards and shove them in.

Answering my doubt can be postponed after these two are awake.

I'll put Markers on the two just in case.



"Well then, let's split up the job."

After taking care of the drunkards, I announced the candidates for the unsolved problems I'd like to solve and then we decided to split into five groups.

First group is Mia, Princess Sistina and Zena-san as their guard.

The girls are going to challenge the problem, "How do you achieve chantless magic?"

The second group is Arisa and her guard, Liza. I'm thinking of having Hikaru join this team later.

They're going to research about [The transition of primeval magic to modern magic and variations].

Our two acquaintances from earlier could be a big help in this problem.

The third group is Sera, with Nana as her guard.

They're, or rather, Sera is going to investigate about [Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead].

If all goes well, we might be able to turn the Tokiswolk vampire children back.

The fourth group is Lady Karina, Pochi and Tama.

The three of them are going to trail-blaze the way to sightseeing spots in Kariswolk city.

It may look like they're goofing around, but this is the most important job here.

Lady Karina had this mixed look on her face, but private Pochi and private Tama were full of motivations.

"Yep this is, don't you think Liza-san is better off managing Karina-sama and the girls instead?"

Arisa whispered to me.

True, there's a 90% chance of incidents happening with just these three.

That said, having Arisa alone without a guard would weigh down on me.

"Oh Master, you're such a worrywart. If anything happened to me, I could just tell Master with the 『Familiar Powah』. You're gonna rush headlong to help me right?"

"I guess that's true."

With my agreement, Liza moved to Lady Karina's group per Arisa's suggestion.

Just to be safe, I handed over equipment with anti status effect buff to her.

As for me, I'll be investigating the topics 『For what reason do Labyrinths exist?』 and 『How does a Dungeon Master produce magical items and monsters?』.

Both should be relatively easy to solve for a Dungeon Master like me.

Though since I cannot disclose my position as one, I wouldn't be able to announce the answer even if I had one.

I plan to join Arisa and Sera's groups once I'm done investigating these problems.



"『For what reason do Labyrinths exist?』, is it?"

I fetched Core Two at the Solitary Island Palace and went with her to the [Dungeon Master Room] in the lowest layer of Dejima Island's [Phantasmal Labyrinth].

The one giving that question earlier was the blinking Dungeon Core.

"Yes, that's right. Any idea?"

"It's unknown."

"I see--"

It would have been simple were Dungeon Core knew, but apparently this was no easy mode.

"Master, do you know the answer to 『For what reason do Humans exist?』"

I reply to Core Two, "You have a point, I don't."

"Master, the answer to that earlier question was 『unknown』, however, it is possible to surmise contenders to that."

"Really?"

"Yes, the previous master muttered that 『Manufacturing plants equipped with an abundant of mana, miasma and souls』, and 『Cleaners that collect

miasma on the surface』 might have been the roles of dungeons."

I agree with the former, but I wasn't even aware about the latter.

"Do dungeons have a function to collect miasma on the surface?"

"No, they do not directly collect the miasma. It comes as a secondary side-effect from dungeons' function of collecting miasma inside them. The previous master hypothesized that the items Weasel Empire used to collect miasma, 『Evil Thought Jar』 and 『Grudge Pot』 might have been created using hints taken from dungeons."

I affirm Dungeon Core's words.

If you can do something about the souls part, it should be possible to turn dungeons into plants by creating a magic to collect miasma.

One of the problems, [How does a Dungeon Master produce magical items and monsters?], can be mostly explained with what Dungeon Core told me earlier, [Manufacturing plants equipped with an abundant of mana, miasma and souls].

"Core, are you able to explain how a dungeon produces monsters and items by making use of mana, miasma and souls?"

"It is possible."

"Then, do tell me."

That's surprisingly easy.

"By supplying an ample amount of mana, miasma and souls in accordance to the recipes into the Creation Furnace inside Theory Circuit of a Dungeon Core, the virtual factory will produce the desired item. If Master wishes to check on the production process, please refer to the Theory Circuit by operating the Dungeon Core's control panel."

It's not very detailed, but it should be simple once I know the search keywords.

As taught by Dungeon Core, I operate the control panel and read the Theory Circuit.

I try my best to read it.

It's quite complex.

And most importantly, the circuit area is tremendously vast.

I feel the helplessness of a junior high school student who's just finished soldering a radio and tried to read the schematic of the latest CPU.

The scale is such that even with my maxed out INT, reading and understanding everything would take at least several months or even a year.

However, it's worth all that labors, thus I plan to analyses the downloaded schematic whenever I have time.



"Now then, guess I really can't announce the answer..."

I think what Dungeon Core said earlier would be acceptable as an answer, however, there's just one little problem.

If the fact that dungeons need souls to create items is known, I could see greedy people in power sacrificing innocent people and demi-humans to dungeons.

Even if it didn't get that bad, I'm afraid of the possibility people intentionally increasing mortality rate of rookie explorers.

I let out a sigh, went to Solitary Island Palace to fetch Hikaru and went back to the city-state Kariswolk.

Right when I got there, I could hear Tama's and Pochi's flustered voice from below me.

"Big trouble, big trouble~?"

"Master, there's a big trouble nanodesu!"

16-55. Sage's Tower (4)

Satou here. Unlike in fictional stuff such as detective manga or drama, I would have liked it for incidents to stop happening every time I got to a new place. Peaceful every day life is the best you know.



"What's the big trouble?"

"Karina she's~"

"Come with us nanodesu!"

Pulled by Tama and Pochi, I was taken elsewhere through the shadow.

After coming out of a back alley, we arrived at an open space near Kariswolk City's outer wall.

Something seems amiss, many people in the open space are crouching down looking ill.

There are fireplaces burning here and there in the open space, also traces of people distributing food here.

--Is it food poisoning?

"Hurrya~"

"Master, come here nanodesu!"

Tama and Pochi pulled me by hands to the blue light point that indicated Lady Karina.

"Master, over here."

Liza called me from the direction of the light point.

Lady Karina is sitting down next to a watering hole in the center of the open space.

"Karina-sama, are you okay?"

"...Satou."

Lady Karina looked at me with a pained look when I called her.

Her condition is displayed on the AR reading on top of her.

--State [Curse: Progressing]

I would have never imagined that there would be an abnormal status Raka cannot cure.

Looks like Lady Karina has been cursed by someone.

I don't think anyone would target someone who had just arrived at a foreign country like her, so I checked on the other ill-looking people around.

Sure enough, the people here are cursed as well.

I search for everyone with a [Curse] state and put markers on them.

Since the number is quite high, I group them together and change the color.

"Master~?"

"Will Karina be okay nanodesu?"

Tama and Pochi look up at me while looking really worried.

"Ah yeah, she'll be fine."

I smile back at the two to reassure them and pick a Soul Magic [Return Curse]-type from among my magic list.

There's this spell that would return the curse back to its user multi folds, [Karma (Space Return Curse)], but I pass over that as it would likely kill the target.

--Curse Back: Home In (Return Curse Chaser)

I pick a convenient spell that would trace the curse back to its user while also returning it back.

Once I used the spell, black miasma came out of Lady Karina's body, then it turned into a cutout-like crow, and flew to the sky--

"Nyu?"

"It's gone nodesu."

But for some reason, it was repulsed and then disappeared when it was about to fly over the water.

Normally, it should have flown back to the curse's user, but apparently, there was some kind of anti Return Curse mechanism at work, so the tracking was stopped midway.

But for now, since Lady Karina's abnormal state has gone back to [None], all's well.

And for other people with Curse status, rather than using [Return Curse] on them one by one, I'll just use the advanced spell of light magic [Divine Brilliant Purification] and cure them off their Curses.

"Nyu!"

Right when I was about to cast the spell from the magic list, Tama slashed her claw at empty air.

With a view magnified by my skill, I could see a falling mosquito that had been cut in two.

Oh, it's just a mosquito--wait, mosquito in the middle of this winter season?

Why?

Right when I was thinking that, my conversation with Arisa flashed back on my mind.

『They were bitten by bugs right? Maybe the bugs were the vector of the vampiric infection?』

While thinking, no way, I read the info of the falling mosquito.

Its species name is [Vampire Mosquito: Mutant].

...No way.

Searching for [Vampire Mosquito], I found a not insignificant amount of them in the surroundings.

I have no reason to ignore this, thus I operate my Magic List, and suck all the mosquito in using wind magic [Air Control] to a sub-space I created using space magic [Garage].

The new snow in the area also ended up getting sucked in, but it's not like

anyone would be troubled if the mosquito died, so I left it alone.

After securing one rat that had fallen into the same condition as Lady Karina earlier, I cast the [Divine Brilliant Purification], and purified the crouching people who had been cursed in the open space all at once.

Quite a flashy light filled the open space, but we're the only one who would pay it any mind here, so no problem there.



"So what actually happened here?"

"There was this little kid who broke a pot nodesu."

"The adult was going to hit that kid with a stick~"

"He was going to hit her with a stick nodesu!"

I sort out the info in my head while Tama and Pochi continue on with their narration.

I had asked Liza to patrol the open space for a bit, I might have made a mistake in the personnel selection here.

There was a man next to the watering hole, and there was a big pot next to that man.

That pot had a warm water inside, steam was coming out of it.

One of the kids who were playing hide and seek bumped into that man, and then the falling man hit the pot in a chain reaction, breaking it.

Afterward, Lady Karina and the girls, who witnessed the enraged man flailing a stick around, put a stop to the barbaric act.

I secretly secured the broken pot's splinters from the ground into my Storage.

According to its detailed information, it was an item created at the old capital of Saga Empire.

...Saga Empire huh.

"Reimbursement."

"He told us to pay to make up for the pot the kid broke nodesu."

"And did you pay?"

"Secret savings~"

"Pochi and Tama did with our pocket money nodesu."

Checking on the their magic bags, all the gold coins I gave them have disappeared.

『And yet the man insisted it still wasn't enough and tried to take the jewelry I and Karina-dono had, but in exchange for a large diamond, that is Tama-dono's secret saving, he ceased his demands.』

The <<Intelligent Item>>, Raka that Lady Karina had added more details.

Additionally, it was apparently Raka who took care of the rest.

The diamond that Tama had was a manmade one I created using magic, I'll be sure to make another one later and give her that.

"So where did that man go?"

"He ran there while dancing~?"

Tama pointed at the east gate.

『Right after that man had left. The kids in the plaza started to keel over.』

They fell one after another, and eventually Lady Karina ended up collapsing herself.

"Medicines didn't work~?"

"Not antidote, not panacea worked nodesu."

"That must have been rough."

I pat the two's heads as they tried to convey what happened at the time with gestures.

Due to the matter of Weasel Empire's temple knight, Liedill, who ended up becoming my familiar, I had restricted the use of Blood Elixir only in cases where the victim is in a serious state of near death.

I'll let the two carry the easy to use ordinary elixirs with them next time.

"...Satou."

"How are you feeling?"

"I'm fine desuwa."

Lady Karina slowly got up.

Looks like she's recovered already thanks to her Self-Recovery skill.

"Private Pochi, Private Tama! I will now assign you a duty."

"Aye!"

"Yes sir nanodesu!"

To the two who struck the Shupin pose while standing straight, I ask them to care for the sick people here.

"I shall help too desuwa!"

"Yes, if you would. Raka, sorry, but I'm counting on you to support the girls."

『Umu, leave it to me.』

The guards will probably come later, I'll let Raka to deal with them.

I turned my back at them, and dashed out to chase the man together with Liza who had just come back from patrolling.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"--Uwaaaaaa"

A man who was riding a ride beast, a Snow Black Rat, was thrown off his ride when the rat suddenly stopped, and then he fell headlong into a piled up snow at the side of the road.

I left the Snow Black Rat to Liza to take care of, would be bad if it went wild.

"You look to be quite in a hurry, did you have an urgent business somewhere?"

I dragged the man out of the snow and talked to him.

"L-lemme go!"

When the man tried to shake off my hand, I shoved him down with his back on the snow and thrust my drawn Fairy Sword before the man.

"What were you doing next to the watering hole? I'll let you off with your life if you talk."

I accosted the man while relying on Deception and Interrogation skill.

The reason why I could pinpoint this man as our culprit is because he was the only one who tried to flee to the urban areas at high speed.

Just in case, I should use the mind magic [Detect Lie] to see through lies.

This magic is not really that accurate, but it's still better than nothing.

"Someone just paid me to do that! 『Watch the pot』 they said."

Result from Detect Lie--Truth.

I put on a callous expression and jerked my chin urging him to continue.

"I don't know who that person was. They were hiding their face in a hood, hell if I know who they were!" <TLN: Gender neutral they, not plural they.>

He doesn't know that person--Lie.

"That's a lie. You must know who they were."

The man had a cramp on his face when I declared so.

"H-how..."

"Talk."

I gripped the sword tighter and coerced the man.

Using Coercion skill here would have knocked the guy out.

"T-they were a scholar-sensei like you."

"Which scholar?"

"I've no idea. They had a 『Ring of Wisdom』 on their arm just like you."

Apparently, that's how he deemed them to be a scholar.

I put markers on all scholars that have 『Ring of Wisdom』 with them inside the country.

None seems to be acting suspiciously.

"Hey, I've told you everythin' yea. So let me go. I'd be killed by that scholar-sensei if I stay here."

"--Killed?"

That's brutal.

"It's coz I broke an important experimental tool. That scholar-sensei who woulda go as far as killing their scholar cohorts wouldn't think twice to kill me."

Well, they're a bunch who's been spreading Vampire Mosquito that put a debilitating curse on people all over the places after all. That much shouldn't be strange.

"I, overheard 'em..."

This man has [Attentive Ears] skill and apparently with that, he overheard the scholar in question instructing men in white to carry out murders in a back alley.

"Who are they trying to kill?"

I can't overlook an attempt for life here.

"Those men mentioned three names."

And the names that came out of the man's mouth sounded familiar to me.

Witch, Witch's apprentice, and Oracle Miko-san.

Miraculously enough, they're all my acquaintances.

"...It's the guards."

Looking at the direction the man muttered at, I saw guards coming here while breaking snow.

Just in time, I drag the man to the guards, and tell them that he's a concerned person of the incident at the open space.

The man was screaming 'This isn't what you promised!' or something, but it's not like I ever said I'd let him go if he talked, so I paid him no mind and proceeded to take the action needed to protect the three whose names came up earlier.

Good grief, just when we've got a fun trial that stimulated my spirit of inquiry, would it kill them to not cause these unnecessary incidents.

16-56. Sage's Tower (5)

Satou here. It's said that if you find one cockroach, there's 30 more in hiding, the worst part about roaches is that even after exterminating them with spray-type insecticide, their eggs will simply incubate and multiply once again, don't you think?

Looks like there's an even more annoying creature in another world though...



『Private Pochi, Private Tama, I've got an emergency mission for you! Immediately go to the diner where we had our meal earlier and guard the drunk witch and apprentice who are fast asleep!』

『Aye aye sir~』

『Roger nanodesu!』

I used space magic [Tactic Talk] to ask Pochi and Tama to protect them from the bunch who were using [Vampire Mosquito] to spread curse.

I thought of sending Tama and Pochi to guard Miko Maiya at the temple since

that one seems safer, but considering the place, they'd likely get treated as trespassers, so I had them go to the diner instead.

Well, the two shouldn't get in danger unless a demon lord class foe appeared, it should be fine.

『Master, Karina said she wants to come along too nodesu.』

『Got it. She can come with you, but tell her not to overdo it okay.』

『Yes nanodesu.』

『Gotcha~』

After confirming on the Map that their luminous dots were heading to the diner, I rushed to Karion Main Temple with Liza.

The miko's dot that was displayed on the Radar disappeared just now.

"Y-you're the person who came for the trial--"

"Where's Miko Maiya?"

I met with a familiar looking priest and immediately threw him a question, omitting greeting.

"Miko Maiya? She went out on a carriage to pay a visit to the nursing home just now."

Map Search--there's only four carriages that belong to Karion Main Temple, one of them has stopped at the temple's side gate.

All other carriages are located quite far from here, probably unrelated.

"Let's go Liza."

"Yes, Master!"

I thanked the priest for telling us with a gesture and headed to the side gate.

Looking at the situation there with space magic [Clairvoyance], the coachman and the horse have lost their heads, with blood gushing out.

Looking inside the carriage, although there are traces of it having been roughed up, Miko Maiya's body isn't anywhere to be found.

A dozen of seconds later, we arrived at the location ourselves.

"Master, I shall keep a look out on the surroundings."

"Thanks."

The seat still feels a bit warm.

Triangular glasses that Miko Maiya used in her cosplay earlier are lying inside the carriage.

She must have been taken away with teleportation magic.

However, Miko Maiya is not present in the surrounding maps.

Your average space magicians shouldn't be able to teleport too far.

The plain-faced reincarnated person who teleported Pochi from Seryuu city to Weasel Empire back then is currently enjoying her fake married life with tactician Touya in their house at Sage Empire, at least that's what my Map says.

Suddenly, two red dots appeared on Map.

"Master, the coachman and his horse have got up."

Liza who was standing watch outside the carriage reported.

They turned into undead even though there's no Soul Magic practitioner here?

And it's too quick for it to be a natural occurrence.

According to Map info, they've turned into Zombies.

Confirming their details, there's nothing especially of note about them.

"You can beat them."

"Acknowledged."

Taking a side glance as Liza skillfully dealt with them, I resumed my investigation inside the carriage.

--There's something odd.

After changing my vision to Miasma Sight, miasma that's far thicker than normal comes into view.

Miasma that's usually only drifting around like thick fog and haze is weirdly wriggling about. Like a whirlpool.

The center of the whirlpool appears to be the carriage.

Nothing.

There's nothing in both my normal vision and Miasma Sight's vision.

However--.

--Too fishy."

I abruptly reach out to the empty space--the center of the whirlpool.

I could feel something on my fingertips.

It's the same sensation like when I'm breaking walls of sub-space created with barrier and space magic.

And with the same knack I used to break barrier--I tore it open.

A suspicious space of jet black whirlpool of darkness unfolded beyond a crack in front of my eyes.

At times, dark red lights and lightnings run through it.

Agonized faces of people submerge and resurface on the whirlpools.

Feel like I'd get cursed just by looking at them.

I'd prefer not to go into this if possible.

"I shall accompany you master."

Liza showed up next to me and declared so with a gallant look on her face.

Un, looks like I've got no choice but to go here.

--Let's go Liza."

"Acknowledged."

I steeled myself and jumped into the sub-space with Liza.

I'm not good with... horror, you know.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



--Realm of the Dead?"

The Map's name here is displayed as [Realm of the Dead].

If memories serve me right, it's a place where intangible-types like Ghosts and Wraiths hide themselves during daylight, there should be research about it

written somewhere.

I execute [All Map Exploration] from the magic list.

No change on the Map.

[This space has no Map] is displayed on my Log.

This looks to be the same as the space created with shadow magic [Shadow Portal] and [Shadow Jail].

"Master, it seems being in this place constantly gnaws into your body. Please take care."

Liza whose body was glowing red gave me a warning.

Looks like she's covered herself in Mana Armor.

"Liza, if it's too hard on your body, you can use the life-support system of the Golden Armor, okay."

"Thank you very much. However, this much is of no problem."

Liza, so valiant.

"Then, let's go--"

This place has no Map, however [All Map Exploration] managed to locate monsters and people here.

We're heading toward the location where Miko Maiya who has [Curse] and [Fainted] conditions on her is at.



"They were not really that strong."

"You're right."

We encountered some Ghost Ships and Wraiths along the way, but Liza beat them all in one hit without even going all out.

"--Whoa, Liza, stop. The place changed again. Let's go over there."

"Understood. This Realm of the Dead does not seem to be a straightforward place, does it."

Location information in this space seems to be unstable, we could suddenly get whisked away to separate places were we moving separately, thus in order to move in Realm of the Dead, Liza's Powered Exoskeleton unit finally gets its chance to shine.

It's an equipment I developed along with Arisa's Wand Warship, but it hasn't seen much use outside her sparring bouts with the black dragon, so we're putting it to use here with no people around.

It can fly with the gravity control mechanism of Darkness Crystal, and it seems usable in this place no problem.

Well, I could have just created a short cut with space magic, but since there's no particularly dangerous enemies around, we're heading there by flying for Liza's exosuit flight test.

"Master, please take a look at that."

After advancing for a while, we come across a tree with lots of dark red

cocoons stuck on it.

Its branches and trunks have so many bends and twists, feels like your mind would destabilize just by looking at it.

"Looks like we've arrived at our destination."

"There is a lot of cocoon-like things, is Miko Maiya confined in one of them?"

"Yep, it seems so."

I light Miko Maiya's pseudo-cocoon with light magic, and pluck it with [Magic Hand].

When the dark red fibers got torn off, a face appeared on the twisted tree, then it screamed out loud.

According to AR readings, it's an undead monster called [Wailing Tree (Banshee Wood)].

I knew that it was a monster from the Radar's red dot though.

"Is it all right if we kill it?"

"Yea, no problem, but let's pluck out all the cocoons first."

There are other captured people inside those cocoons too.

I pluck all the pseudo-cocoons with [Magic Hand] from the tree, and let Liza handle the Banshee Wood.

All the people captured inside the pseudo-cocoons have the [Oracle] skill.

Half of them have [Cursed] state, while the other half are [Vampires], of which two are [Vampire Lords].

Moreover, these vampires' Occupations are that which should have been their natural enemy--Miko and Priests.

--Don't tell me.

No, there's no need to guess, they must be Miko and Priests that have been turned into Vampires.

I put all the people who have been turned into vampires in a locked sub-space I own, and cleanse the rest off their Curse with advanced spell of light magic [Divine Brilliant Purification].

It'd be bad if the unstable ground broke off, so I narrowed down the purification range as much as possible.

For now, I'll shelter these purified people in another sub-space separate from the vampires'.

"Master, would you like to collect Banshee Wood's materials in addition to the magic core?"

Liza asked me while presenting a huge magic core.

"Right then--Let's put a booby trap in it."

Whether they get caught in the trap or not, finding out the people who come here to collect the tree would be a good harvest.



"--What, someone beat the Banshee Wood!"

Right when I was going to leave Realm of the Dead with Liza, I could hear the begrudging voice of an old man at the opposite side of the floating Banshee Wood behind us.

...He got here quick.

The booby trap I've set up with great pains is rendered meaningless now.

The old man screamed while I was wallowing in the feeling of wasted effort for a bit.

"Uoo, wha--what is this black mucus?"

I thought he was caught in the booby trap, but it's not that.

Black slime-like string-shaped stuff coiled around the bald old man.

"You can't escape from Tama~?"

A familiar face showed up from below the old man's feet.

"Tama."

"Master~? And Liza, halo halo~?"

Tama waved at us energetically.

Looks like she was chasing the old man here.

Pochi and Lady Karina are currently standing watch around the witch and the apprentice.

That means this old man is one of the ringleaders behind the [Vampirification] curse terror?

"Daaaamn you! Are you guys Saga Empire bunch who came here to foil our plan? Or are you destruction-inclined demon lord believers, here to snatch the plan off our hands?"

--Huh?

I thought he was related to the dark side of Saga Empire, not the case it seems.

According to AR readings, he belongs to an unfamiliar organization called

[Heart of Gold].

There sure is a lot more suspicious secret societies than I thought in this world.

"Now that it's come to this--Open!"

The old man shouted then a black hole appeared beside him. It's Item Box.

The old man thrust his hand inside and take out a purple sphere from inside it.

--Crisis Perception.

I moved next to the old man with Flash Drive and snatched away that sphere.

Since the Crisis Perception rang even louder then, I stored the sphere into my Storage.

"O summoning gem! I offer you my life to bring a demon that symbolizes ruin to this land! Destroy my enemies in exchange of my soul!"

The old man tried to throw the sphere down, but he realized that the [Purple Sphere] on his hand was absent, and looked around at the surroundings in panic.

"Give it back! That's my treasure comrade Don-dono stole along with the egg of 『Vampirification』 from a research institute abroad!"

--So it's a stolen good.

I'll use the mind magic [Detect Lie] that I used to interrogate the jar man back then and interrogate this old man.

"Which research institute did you steal it from?"

"...Dunno."

--Truth.

"Where is this Don person?"

"Dunno."

--Truth.

Present location, unknown.

"Then how do you meet this Don person?"

"Dunno."

--Lie.

He knows how to meet the guy huh.

"Do you want me to hand you over to the temple for abducting 『Oracle Miko』 as well as attempted murder?"

I asked him while using a bit of Pressure.

He looks like he's about to faint, but it doesn't look like he's going to answer.

"Torture~?"

With a paint brush in one hand, Tama is making a wriggling hand gesture.

"Hmph, I wouldn't be a leader of the 『Heart of Gold』 who seeks eternal life if mere tortures would break me!"

--Oh ho?

"By eternal life, you mean like elves?"

"Like men could become fairies! Our goal is the evolution to a being of eternal life such as 『Undead Magic King (Lich)』 and 『No Life King』!"

Is that even an evolution?

Well whatever--.

"Tama, do it."

"Aye aye sir~"

I don't feel like listening to eerie laughs and screams of an old man anymore, so I leave the torture to Tama and head back to give treatment to Miko Maiya.



"--You're?"

"Hero Nanashi of Shiga Kingdom."

While giving nutritious drinks to the debilitated Miko Maiya and the others, I asked her how they got kidnapped.

Every one of them was attacked and abducted by undead when they went outside their respective temple.

Since the old man Tama caught earlier could use Soul Magic, it must be his doings.

They were confined inside those cocoon-like things immediately after, so none even knew that they were being held in Realm of the Dead.

Ordinarily, these miko and priests shouldn't get attacked by undead because they had holy marks, so they told me while sounding frustrated.

Miko besides Miko Maiya and Heraruon Temple's miko were all captured from the neighboring countries.

Since I had every one of those countries' Map already, I sent each of them back to theirs with Unit Arrangement and space magic.

I've put markers on them and put them together in the same group beforehand.

Next, the former miko and former priests who have turned into vampires were also attacked and abducted by undead when they went out of their respective temple.

Additionally, since the number of people who tried to commit suicide kept increasing among them, they have been restrained.

About half of them gave up trying to commit suicide after I told them that there might be a way to turn them back thanks to the research on [Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead] at the Sage's Tower.

I should investigate whether the possibility is truly there at least, before a victim appeared among them.

Once we know that it's possible, it might be a good idea to let them handle the rest of investigation to turn them back.

--Oh right.

I should check on the Vampire Mosquito and the cursed rat I caught along with those mosquito before going back.

The Vampire Mosquito have all died out, while the rat has turned into Vampire Rat.

There's no mistaking it, you turn into vampire after the curse has progressed enough.

--This is bad.

I should exterminate them ahead of time.

16-57. Sage's Tower (6)

Satou here. We exterminate pest with fumigants in my grandfather's house

back in the countryside, but doing that carelessly in a leased apartment in big cities could lead to fire, and in the first place, I feel like most of them don't even allow you to light one. Even though it's highly effective, rounding up everything in one go and all.



"Oh good, looks like Kariswolk City was the first."

I muttered so in relief.

I had returned all the captured miko and priests back to their home with Unit Arrangement and space magic teleport one by one, and found out that none of the countries had suffered a terror attack by the [Vampire Mosquito: Mutant] in the process.

Instead, I was able to capture members of the organization the old man in white who kidnapped those miko belong to, [Heart of Gold], several pots they had, and activated eggs of vampire mosquitoes.

I've prepared documents about these pots and vampire mosquitoes with photos, but I'm not sure if I want to distribute them to the top brass of each

countries.

Because I'm afraid they would not only move behind the scene to obtain these mosquitoes, but they would also possibly use it to sow the seeds of disturbance during wars and such.

『Aah yeah, it's the norm for organizations who confiscated biological weapons to make use of it themselves in the past cold war too~』

『But, Ichirou-nii. If you didn't inform those countries, wouldn't their people get in a huge trouble later on?』

『Well yeah, guess so. How about hiding the information about Vampire Mosquitoes, and just tell them that the pots are the source of the curse? Tell 'em, like, "Demon lords are using this thing to curse the world!", and that the populace would be cursed unless the priests purify them with ritual magic.』

I got those answers in the space magic [Tactical Talk] held between me, Arisa and Hikaru.

I've decided to adopt Arisa's idea, after destroying all the pots in every country, I'll send letters as Hero Nanashi of Shiga Kingdom to warn those countries about the pots and the possibility of the remnants scheming to terrorize their countries still at large.

『But really, Ichirou-nii, your Unique Skill is really a cheat.』

Hikaru said that jokingly, however, I could hear her faintly muttering, "If only I had a power like that back then...", when I was cutting the connection.

Not sure if it was during her hero or king days, Hikaru had her fair shares of hardships too it seems.

One of these days, I'll accompany her to talk about her past with some good booze and snacks for a night.



"Oy, oy, you've gotta be kidding me..."

[Heart of Gold] that kidnapped miko wasn't the only organization conspiring to carry out vampire mosquito terror attacks.

After a close investigation in the first area, I went around and teleported to each Maps on the continent while searching for vampire mosquitoes and [Heart of Gold] members, destroying their vampire mosquito terror plans, but in the midst of it, I started to find other secret societies like [Thorn of Truth], [Eye of

Mercury] and [Benefit Society].

Every one of them aren't connected in a terrorist network, most are acting as an independent organization.

However, all of them share one similarity.

The person who brought the vampire mosquitoes to these organizations had different names like [Comrae Don], [Member Nanya], [Seya the 『Shadow Walker』], or [Hunt Master], but besides the fact that they had a foreign accent, no one even knew their face.

I have no clue if they're the same person or not, but it's pretty much confirmed that there's a mastermind who's pulling the strings behind all these terrorist organizations.

And if there's anyone who's capable of doing a villainous act as large scale as this--

"Well, it's those guys..."

The mastermind leader and tactician Touya who are lurking in the shadow of Saga Empire crossed my mind.

I know Touya and his cohorts' location and I've put markers on them so I won't lose sight of them, but I still haven't got a single lead on their leader.

Every one of these organizations has a regular meeting with the mastermind, a small man, and the closest one is [Heart of Gold]'s meeting in three days from now.

According to the documented plan I seized from them, the terror attack was planned to be done two days later at the [The Day before New Moon], apparently the incident at Kariswolk City happened earlier than planned due to an accident.

Either way, since the small mastermind might run away when he gets to Kariswolk city where [Heart of Gold] headquarters lie, I'll put up a barrier that can detect a rift in space at Kariswolk City.

I'll catch the tail of this stealthy mastermind this time.



"I'm back, sorry I'm late."

It was already late in the day when I got back to the Solitary Island Palace to pick Hikaru up.

I feel a bit bad since I had promised to meet her in the noon.

"Good work out there, Ichirou-nii. No one but Ichirou-nii is capable of sensing and taking care of terrorist attacks in the entire world, all in a day work you know?"

You should be proud of yourself, says Hikaru.

While feeling slightly embarrassed to be watched by her admiring eyes, I took Hikaru along to Kariswolk City.

"Welcome~"

"Satou."

Tama and Mia went and hugged me when I opened the diner's door.

I went inside while the two were coiling around me, and caught a sight of Liza bringing water to Pochi who had her mouth jammed with food.

She must have tried to gulp down the food she was having so she could run out together with the two.

Looks like they went ahead and started the meal already since it was late already.

"Oooh, young master! Third's time the charm ssu!"

When I took an empty seat next to Lulu, the underling-sounding beauty-- [Witch of Icy Field]-san hugged me from behind, forced me to hold a liquor cup, and poured it full of booze.

Even though she drank herself to sleep this noon, she's started drinking again, enough to get her face red.

Well, guess it's fine.

Since I'm starving myself, I'll join in the feast.

The impregnable fortress pair, Mia and Arisa peeled the clinging Witch-san away from me.

"But seriously, you really saved us ssuyo. It was young master who dispatched Tama-sensei and the others right?"

--Sensei?

"They were super awesome ssuyo. They went and beat the men in white and the wrights, skeleton knights they controlled, like chop chop whoa."

Tama and Pochi who're getting high praises from Witch-san wriggle around, looking bashful.

Since Lady Karina had [Praise me!] written all over her face while looking at me, I also gave her some praises along with Tama and Pochi. I'm a bit afraid that it'll drive her out of control, but I'm sure Raka will do something about it. Surely.

In addition, even though Witch-san knew about [Heart of Gold] the secret society the men in white belonged to, she was not familiar with the old man in white according to her.

I asked if she had an idea as to why she was getting targeted, but she replied with, [Only bars where I put too much tabs on, and men I dumped would go after me ssune], I wasn't sure if she was joking or if she really had no idea.

"Good grief, what a disappointment of a Witch of Source you are."

"What are you saying ssuka. I'm nothing but a beauty when I'm away from the Source, you know."

"Who are you talking about! If you can't fight, then don't, could you stop exposing yourself to danger then? You can go back to the Source anytime you want anyway!"

The drunken Rakel-kun, pupil of the [Witch of Frost Covered Forest], picked a quarrel with the [Witch of Icy Field]-san.

"But, I'm the only one who can go back y'know? I won't do that and leave Rakel-kun alone ssuyo."

Rakel-kun whose face was already red turned even redder.

The love-minded Arisa and Sera who are watching from the sidelines are getting fired up, "Love? Is this love?", "It must be!". Zena-san seems to be a good talker, she's naturally put herself among them.

"Witch--"

"I mean, the weak Rakel-kun would get done in real quick if he were alone ssuyo. Like, phoew."

--Wha"

"Whaddya think Juhyou-chan (frost covered tree) would say to me then. That obstinate Juhyou-chan would keep grumbling about it for like a decade ssuyo."

Next to Witch-san who's shaking her head exaggeratedly, Rakel-kun's face is turning red and blue in rapid successions, all the while Arisa and the girls watch him with a pitying look.

Well, uh. Keep at it.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Good morning, Master."

When I came to, Lulu's upper half came into view as she was looking over me.

Judging from the sensation on the back of my head, it looks like I'm currently getting Lulu's lap pillow.

"Ah, good morning."

Looks like I was tired, I apparently went asleep in the middle of the feast, unusually enough. Zena-san and Iza apparently carried me to the bed.

I'm loath to part with the soft pillow, but since there's a lot of things need to be done today, I muster the strength to get up.

Then it hits me that I forgot to ask Witch-san, about the [Location where the Demon God is sealed at], but it's not really a critical information to have in a hurry, so there's no problem.

I can ask about it before we leave this city anyway.

From what she told me during the feast, she's having a business talk with her big investor today, she might turn me away if I go to her now, and most importantly, I'd just get in her way.

"Thanks for waiting."

"The dining room is over here."

After grooming myself, I went to the dining room with Lulu.

Since we still have two days before the small mastermind behind the vampire mosquito comes here, we plan to continue our research as originally planned in the meantime.

I ask Arisa and the girls' progress yesterday while enjoying our meal in the dining room.

"--So you see, our research isn't going too well."

I'm told that they're having a trouble deciphering the scribbles of research materials.

I put the document I got from Arisa into Storage, tried to OCR it and it spat out normal character data, then I copied it onto Memo Pad, and printed out the copy into the Storage with Menu plug-in magic [Print Out].

Un, it's readable.

I hand it over to Arisa.

"--Are you a PC!"

I thought she would be ecstatic, so cruel.

"W-what about our hardships yesterdayyyyyyy"

"Arisa, just consider that we will have it easy from now on."

"That's right, Arisa-chan. Look at this here. The incomprehensible part yesterday makes sense now."

"Nn, nicely readable."

Princess Sistina and Zena-san soothed the screaming Arisa.

Arisa and Zena-san's teams should have worked on different materials, but apparently they were working together to decipher their documents yesterday.

"I plan to investigate on the [Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead] subject together with Sera today, but talk to me anytime if you have a document you need to decipher."

We'll be constantly connected with space magic [Tactical Talk] in order to exchange ideas.

I don't think there will be an incident like yesterday, I'm trying this method to see if having a way to have discussions like in SNS would be beneficial in our research.

"Where should we go?"

"Mia-sama, what do you think?"

"Nn, library."

Mia, Princess Sistina, and Zena-san are heading to the library to continue their research on [How to achieve chantless magic?].

"What about us, what should we do?"

Hikaru asked Arisa.

The two are researching on [The transition of primeval magic to modern magic and variations].

"I've taken a quick look at the print outs Master gave, and there's some parts I still don't really get, so I'd like to meet the scholar who wrote this document

here. Master, do you know where they are?"

"I do."

I draw a route from the inn to the scholar's house on a paper.

Since Arisa can check the city's geography with space magic [Clairvoyance] from high grounds, I'm sure they won't get lost.

"Master, hoping for a mission."

"We'll accomplish any mission, no matter how hard! Right, Pochi, Tama?"

"Ofcour~se~"

"But of course nodesu! Nothing is impossible with Pochi and us together nodesuyo!"

Liza is watching over Lady Karina and the girls talking big while looking slightly troubled.

I've decided that Liza and the girls will go on a patrol around Kariswolk City while pretending to be on a pleasure trip.

Even though it's still two days away before the small mastermind comes,

there's no guarantee he absolutely won't come here with space magic after all, and I plan to notify the girls about any other accident happening in the city and have them investigate it.

"Shall we be off then Satou-san."

Having my hand pulled by the all-smiles Sera, I stood up.

With a flustered look, Arisa frantically made a plea to Sera, "Just because you're two alone together, you can't push him down okay? You just can't okay."

Sera told her, "I know already" with a refreshing look on her face, but since Arisa still looked worried, I persuaded her by saying, 『We're all connected through Tactical Talk, so you'll know if anything happens right?』.

I put everything that was in the reference room at the top of Sage's Tower, and copied the content into Memo Pad.

I'm afraid of getting typo and stuff when transcribing if I use written copies so I've decided to use the original copy.

I print documents related to our research subject and ask Sera to closely examine them.

"Are you going to be okay with this many documents?"

"Yes, I will be fine."

Even though there's a scarily huge pile of papers in front of her, Sera replied while an oddly cheerful tone.

"We're going to work together, just the two of us."

I feel bad to say something like I would to Arisa to the gleeful sounding Sera, but I plan to go to Karion Main Temple to look for other documents.

After I told her that, the face Sera made, "Eh? Why?", stung my heart, but looking on Map, the main temple has some documents that don't exist here, so I absolutely need to go there.

I don't mind going with Sera but as a former God Tenion's miko, she'll probably find it uncomfortable there, so I'm going alone.

"Welcome to Karion Temple, your excellency."

Miko Maiya greeted me as I arrived at the main temple.

She's already working even though she just got abducted and was on the verge of death yesterday.

Looks like main temples have quite the black company environment.

"Could you let me see documents pertaining my research subject for the trial?"

"That would be fine. Your excellency are not only allowed to access the library restricted to scholars, but also the Sanctuary Library that are normally restricted to archbishops and high-ranking priests, where would you like me to guide you to?"

"First, to the library. If I can't find the document I need there, please take me to the Sanctuary Library."

I dunno if an outsider like me should be allowed to enter a library for high-ranking priests, but according Miko Maiya, it's customary for those who take on God Karion's trial to be given access to the Sanctuary Library, so it's fine.

The main temple shared a lot of documents with the ones in [Sage's Tower], but there were also a lot more documents peculiar to the temple pertaining undead and demons.

Especially about undead, when other temples stop at [Undeads are impure beings], here, some documents hypothesized that they might be flesh that contain highly concentrated miasma and negative feelings--or dead bodies that have undergone mutations.

Among the banned books and documents, there were results of experiments that tried to turn small animals into undead, but it's hard to say for sure whether the hypothesis earlier was correct or not from the results.

I bring all of those documents to check with Sera together.

"What's the difference between undead and monsters I wonder..."

Monsters are also plants and animals that have turned into monsters due to concentration of miasma and mana.

"Is it the magic cores?"

"Undeads have those too."

Undeads have magic cores too.

Even those without physical body have them.

There exist pseudo-undead called [Accursed], and [Coreless] that can get generated when dead bodies are left in a dungeon, but they're not true undead, and more like beings of magical phenomena instead.

"--Ah."

Sera seemed to have hit on something.

"Perhaps, they're one and the same?"

"One and the same?"

"Yes, the only difference is whether the base that undergoes the mutation is the living or the un-living..."

The component needed for the transformation and the transformation process are the same huh....

"But then, that means..."

If those who have been vampirized--turned into undead are restored to their

original state with the same process as [Hisui who has been turned into a monster], they will be turned back into their un-living bodies.

"Yes, we can't save anyone."

Sera who's seemingly come to the same conclusion bites her lips in frustration.

『Sorry to intrude in. Master, can I have a bit?』

『Sure.』

Arisa who heard my discussions with Sera through Tactical Talk called in.

『Looks like it's heading to a negative conclusion, but can't you first verify whether it's possible or not? There are items that can bring the dead back to life like the [Artifact of Revival] at the duchy capital's Tenion Temple after all.』

『It's not an item! It's a Sacred Treasure.』

It seems Sera won't bend down on this, she cut in with a serious look.

『Sorry sorry. There's those kinds of Sacred Treasure around after all, so it

might be possible to bring the dead back to the world the living too.』

『Yeah, you're exactly right.』

It's not like me at all to give up before trying.

『Thank you Arisa. I'll give it a try.』

『Ehehe~, that's my Master!!』

I thanked Arisa for her advices.

『Oh, and, it's fine if you go ahead and conjure up revival magic too you know?』

It's really like Arisa to joke around at the end.

Now then, shall we begin the experiment to make the impossible possible then?

16-58. Intermission: Behind the Incidents

"Kukuku, with this I am now one step closer to realizing my ambitions."

A black crystal pillar is emitting an eerie light in front of the chuckling Hero Fuu.

And beyond the altar adorned with the black crystal pillar, a skeletal structure like that of a bleached human skeleton is hanging from the ceiling in the darkness.

Though, from its size, it's clearly not a human skeleton.

Since its head has bull-like horns on both sides, it doesn't seem to be the commonly known giant either.

Size-wise, it can't be minotaur either.

"Fuu-han, what's that thing?"

"--Ugee"

Hero Fuu literally jumped up in a surprise at the voice that came from behind him.

While looking around restlessly like some kind of suspicious person, he averts

his eyes away from the small man who called out to him.

"T-this, this is, err, you see..."

Hero Fuu glanced at the huge skeleton for an instant as he searched for an excuse, but he shut his mouth up when he noticed the man was looking at the crystal pillar.

"Hey hey, what's this?"

The small man smiles gently, but his eyes aren't laughing.

"T-th-this is... <<Miasma Crystal>>."

"Hmmm."

The small man comes closer and stares hard at the black crystal pillar while circling around it.

"Soo, what were you trying to do with it?"

Hero Fuu averted his eyes.

"T-turn... weaklings into undead, lots of them."

"Hou? So like 『Strength in numbers, big bro』 eh."

Hero's Fuu's eyes brightened for an instant to hear a line that bore a close resemblance to a line by the third son character's in a certain robot anime, but his expression froze when he was met with the small man's brutal smile as he lifted his face.

"Specifically, how many can you produce?"

"A-as many as I want, a-as long as there's mana."

"Coz this black crystal supplies the miasma?"

"It's not crystal! It's Miasma--"

Hero Fuu reflexively flared up, but then he swallowed down his words when he saw the small man putting up a serious look.

"Soo tell me. Can you only mass produce skeleton and zombies with it?"

"T-that's ri--"

"Lies are a no no, okay."

Hero Fuu bit his lips and stopped trying to tell the lie when the small man told him that.

"That Miasma Crystal has been carved with soul magic 『Animate Undead』 ain't it? It works on anything so long it's dead no?"

Hero Fuu keeps his silent.

"Hey, tell me. It can create anything no?"

"T-that's right. Headless Knights, and 『Skeleton Knights』, n-not only those. If you can get your hands on dying souls, it can even create, Wraith Knights."

"So then, you're tryin' to move that thing too?"

The small man said so while gazing at the giant skeleton hanging in the darkness.

"...."

The small man laughed out loud at the silent Hero Fuu.

"Niice, as expected of Hero Fuu, yea. I ain't ever seen a hero as black as you. Yer' no different than that broken founder hero, yea."

The small man stroke the Miasma Crystal's smooth surface while muttering something that makes it sounds like he's acquainted with the founder hero.

"By the way, Fuu-han. How many of this thing can you mass produce?"

"M-mass produce? T-t-that one needs lots of mi-miasma on top of mana so--"

"--Impossible. Is not the word I want to hear."

"B-but without miasma..."

The small man took many Grudge Pots and Wicked Jars out of Item Box and put them on the floor.

"Ain't me a clever boss? They were gathered by the mosquitoes Fuu-han gave me last time. If we just had Shiga Kingdom's Chalice, we coulda made an Evil

Philosophy tho'--"

Hero Fuu who recalled about [Evil Philosophy] from a book turned a look full of expectations at the man.

If he had that, forget about mass producing lesser undead soldiers, he could even regain the original form of the hanging skeleton behind him.

"Sorry to get your hopes up, but that place's a no no."

The small man clowned around while waving his hands, "Have mercy on me."

"..."

"We could have unsealed Milord-san like right now if we just had a big Evil Philosophy, but that place's Irregular's stronghold and boundary line, we'd be heading straight to the bad end if we got close there."

"I-Irregular?"

"That's 'rite"

The small man changed the topic without really answering Hero Fuu.

"So, with this much pure miasma, how many soldiers can this Miasma Crystal create?"

"I-If you're fine with weaklings, around 10,000 a day. F-for those that can fight on par with ordinary, ordinary knights, around 300 units a day is doable."

"Hmmm. One of this is good for 10 skilled Soul Magicians huh... That's pretty nice."

The small man nodded in satisfaction to hear Hero Fuu's reply.

"By the way, can you make more of this Miasma Crystal?"

"I-I can... but. T-this much, miasma is not enough... I-I can't make more Miasma Crystal w-without this much."

"That so. Well, I've got an idea on how to get more miasma. We'd do the entire world next if the Vampire Mosquito experiments went well."

"D-don't tell me... I-Indiscriminately?"

"That right. Multiple terror acts in the entire world all at once! We'll paint the whole world in terror, despair and slaughter."

Hero Fuu inched back while looking frightened as the small man began to dance like a clown.

"I-if you do that... The world will end..."

"Nay nay, it ain't gonna be. That's what heroes are for. That's what Saga Empire is for."

"--Eh?"

"If it did get destroyed, I ain't get to play for awhile no? I'm gonna enjoy it without going too far this time, and stop once we've got plenty of miasma in Grudge Pots and Wicked Jars yeap."

The small man boasted, "Stoppin' 'rite before it's completely destroyed is how pros do their job."

"Besides, our main goal this time is to undo the seal binding Milord-san, that why we're polluting the world, collecting miasma."

"M-Milord-san?"

"Yeap, once Milord-san's seal comes undone, it's time to party. With Milord-san leading, army of hell gonna march into God's Realm and wreak havoc there. Aah... can't wait for it. So long Milord-san is around, I can keep getting back from hell, and fighting gods and apostles to death."

Hero Fuu who realized that the small man was not joking around is trembling with a pale face.

His eyes was frantically looking for a way to get out of this place.

"No need to look so worried there. So long you ain't gonna stand in ma way, I ain't gonna kill you. There's that agreement too, gotta try to not lay my hands on those connected to loli goddess as much as possible."

Hero Fuu could only frantically nod with a forced smile at the small man who said that with an extremely un-relieving face.

After looking at him in satisfaction, the small man floated out a fiendish smile at the frightened Hero Fuu while saying, "Yea, loli goddess herself is necessary 'fter all."

"Oops, that took long 'nuff. Well then, Fuu-han, I'm gonna keep bringing ya Grudge Pots and Wicked Jars full of miasma, make lotsa of those Miasma Crystals for me m'kay."

Without waiting for Hero Fuu's response, the small man turned back and went away while waving his hand.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Touya-sama, thank you for your hard work today as well."

"Umu."

A bald boy who came back from the alchemy store part of the building was greeted by a plain-looking girl.

She looks like a new wife welcoming a gallant boy clad in store-use white robe.

"Would you like dinner first? Or bath first? O-or maybe... w-wo-would you like me instead!"

The plain-looking girl made some suspicious-looking movements while waving her hands and screaming 'Kyaa' happily.

The boy gazed at the girl for a while and then suddenly looked up at a nearby window.

"--Who's there."

『Letter, brought, here』

A human-faced crow perching on the window frame skillfully untied a letter on its leg, dropped it inside the room and disappeared into gray smoke.

"It's gone--was that a summoned bird?"

"That's likely the case."

After picking up the letter and reading over it, the boy let the letter touch a ring adorned with a fire crystal on his finger, then it turned into ash in an instant.

"...Is that from Chief?"

"Yeah, that's right."

To be more exact, it was from one of umbrella organizations their Chief created, but the boy affirmed without going into detail.

"It's progressing well."

"--Well? Is there some kind of plan secretly going places?"

Were we not spending our times in obscurity after leaving it behind in order to prevent a calamity caused by Irregular--is what's written on the face of the plain-looking girl as she looks at the boy.

"Correct. Our turn is still yet to come, but right before the final phase, we will send a huge number of demons and mercenaries at locations related to Irregular as a diversion."

The plain-looking girl nodded as she listened to the boy.

"In order to ascertain that phase, we will soon go to Shiga Kingdom under the pretext of a pleasure trip."

"Pleasure trip--d-does that mean, it's honey moon isn't it! No, it must be honey moon! Isn't it right, Touya-sama!"

"...Do you think it would deceive Irregular better than a mere pleasure trip?"

The boy replied to the high tension girl while sounding a bit overwhelmed.

"That's right! Of course it would! Okay then, I'm going to the library to collect books about Shiga Kingdom and draft up a plan!"

With tired eyes, the boy sees off the plain-looking girl who rushed out in a hurry.

The boy who heard an excited scream from afar, "Hyahhoo! Honey moon with Touya-samaaaaaa!", could only go back to his room while sighing geez.



『Master, you have a plan to visit umbrella organization [Heart of Gold] today. Please get ready to depart soon.』

At his hiding place, the small man who was making revisions on the plan in case they have the Miasma Crystal lifted his face at a secretary homonculus that had few inflections.

"That time already eh... Where's this 『Heart of Gold』 again ey?"

『Their headquarters are located in Kariswolk City, also known as [Sage's Tower] the scholarship city. Master is visiting there in order to check on the final test of the [Vampire Mosquito] plan.』

"Ah rite"

The small man stood up from his seat while beating his waist.

"I'd have it easy if I had plain girl-chan's teleportation, but Irregular's gone and put his marks on 'em."

He grumbled to no one in particular while doing a stretch.

"It's annoying, but got no choice but to go there myself."

『Master, requesting permission to offer my opinions.』

The small man looked a bit surprised to hear the secretary homonculus who usually hid herself in the shadow.

"What? Just say it."

『The main temple of God Karion is located in Kariswolk City. I suggest Master to postpone your visitation this time as there is a high probability that the [Irregular] is there to take on the god's trial.』

"Whoa, that's baaad."

After saying that, the small man puts his hand on his chin and ponders.

"Sorry but can ya go to the lab and take a few homonculus specialized in infiltration out of their cylinders."

"Understood."

After making sure that the secretary homonculus has left, the small man takes out a purple summoning gem from [Inventory].

He poured mana into the summoning gem and threw it down on the ground, afterward a purple magic circle appeared around the gem then an ultramarine colored demon showed itself up in the center.

It's a huge demon in military uniform carrying a blade spear.

"Ciao Ultramine, sorry but I got something for you to do."

"I shall obey everything my summoner says dearimasu."

After confirming that the ultramarine demon has lowered its head and given its consent, the small man continues.

"Go to Parion Holy Land and destroy the main temple there. Make sure to turn every building into wasteland, and clean-up all the higher ups including the current pope."

Despite saying that he's "not gonna lay his hands on those related to loli goddess as much as possible", there was nary a hint of hesitation in the small man's words to kill priests of Parion Main Temple.

"It shall be done dearimasu."

"Oh and also, please secure the symbol of main temples, the Sacred Treasure there 'kay."

"Sacred Treasure is it dearimasuka..."

The ultramarine demon who had been acting confident up until now expressed disapproval for the first time.

Demons must find sacred Treasures of the seven pillar gods deplorable.

"Master I have brought five homonculus with me."

"Nice timing yea. And you've administered correction drug on 'em too. Means they can sortie' out anytime ey."

After appraising the five homonculus for infiltration the secretary homonculus brought, the small man nodded in satisfaction and took three [Magic Bags] from the still-open [Inventory].

"These guys will be in charge of securing the Sacred Treasure, so take 'em along with you to Parion Holy Land. They'll act separately from you, so you can go back once yer' done with the destroyin'."

After seeing off the demon disappearing into its own sub-space along with the three homonculus wrapped in its barrier, the small man started his preparations to depart himself.

"Master, you intend to divert Irregular's attention to the greater demon, and use that chance to hold the meeting, don't you."

"That 'rite. Not sure if Irregular would notice it tho', so I've prepared about 2-

3 camouflages s'well."

After saying that, the small man tests out several stealth skills until the time of appointment.

"Man, this stuff is really tiring. Even though it can delude even Dog-head and Wild Boar King and their sharp intuitions, I cannae' hold it fer' long, gotta, like, make it easier to use..."

"Master, in order to prevent the tomfoolery of getting yourself detected by Irregular, you should perfect it, so I propose."

"Yeap."

The small man gave an unenthusiastic reply to the serious secretary homonculus.

"Imma just use recognition inhibition artifact along with it aand done, should be a flawless victory."

After equipping several equipment taken from [Inventory], and using multiple layers of tricks, the small man departed his hideout toward Kariswolk City.

Unaware of the trap laid out by the aforementioned Irregular waiting for him...

16-59. Sage's Tower (7)

"Suicide bombing at Echigoya's main headquarter?"

"Yes. However, thanks to Reilas-sama who was visiting by chance, none of the store personnels nor our visitors was injured. Many were wounded, but they've all already recovered thanks to magic potions and magicians belonging to hq."

Satou and Sera who had returned to the solitary island palace for a lunch break got a report from Tifaliza, the general manager's secretary of Echigoya Firm.

Apparently, the holy shield user of Shiga Eight Swords, Reilas-dono was dropping by to make an adjustment on his new armor equipped with Armor Expansion and quasi-type [Fortress] functions that was provided to him through Echigoya Firm.

Gotta remember to say my thanks as Kuro later.

"We couldn't save the person who performed the suicide bombing, however, since we found internal organs that couldn't have been belonged to human from the remains, we had someone with Appraisal skill to check on it, and identified that it was a homonculus."

And it's not the commonly seen modern homonculus, but an ancient battle-

type homonculus made during Furu Empire era, Tifaliza added.

"But really, a terror act huh..."

Since the enemy's leader seems to be a reincarnated person, I should have considered the possibility of them resorting to terror acts if they can't win a direct confrontation.

There's been lots of terror acts before after all, like the indiscriminate terror acts in Shiga Kingdom's capital through [Reborn Seed], and the terror acts at Siruga Kingdom by Weasel Empire's agents.

Satou picked up several items from his Storage while thinking that.

"Tifaliza, these are for you and General Manager Elterina. And these here are for anego-san and the others who are guarding the executives, please pass these along to them."

"Bracelets, slim gauntlets, and parasols?"

The bracelets and gauntlets are loaded with the same function, an ability to produce Force Magic-made artificial matter shield on demand.

And just having the bracelet equipped will provide one with an always active

defensive wall that's sturdier than [Physical Defensive Buff] by a skilled magician, I should instruct them to have it equipped at all times besides when they're going on a trip.

As for the parasols, [Umbrellas] are defensive items installed with [Fortress] experimental magic circuit.

The defensive power is only about 20% of the real [Fortress], but I think it's more than sufficient enough against ordinary terrorists.

The king, the prime minister, Marquis Muno and Nina-san are probably going to be targeted too, maybe I should mass produce and pass these to them through Echigoya Firm.



"I can see it!"

Lady Karina who looked up and saw a tower beyond the snow field called out to Pochi and Tama who were playing around by chasing a snow rabbit.

"Where~?"

"Over there, nanodesu!"

The two whose faces were filled with snow shook their bodies and wiped the snow off their faces.

Lulu and Liza can also be seen behind these three.

Today, they're invited by the 『Witch of Ice Field』 to visit her tower.

"Barrier~"

"Pochi feels like she can pass through it somehow nodesu."

"Yes~?"

Around here, said Pochi as she poked the barrier with her still-sheathed sword.

"You two, we're here today because we're invited by witch-dono, so you can't break this barrier okay."

Liza rebuked Tama and Pochi.

If they use the barrier-breaking Dragon Fang Swords, joking aside, they could really break most barriers out there if they wanted to.

"Witch-san is here for us."

Lulu called everyone.

"Thanks for waiting ssu. Oh? Is Sir Satou not coming along?"

"Yes, master is a bit busy at the moment."

"Really ssu..."

The witch dropped her shoulders while muttering, 'And I thought I could talk about Demon God-sama all days with him.'

"Master was looking forward to this visitation too, I am sure he will come too once he's taken care of his business."

"You think sso to? I've gone and borrowed materials about Underworld his excellency was interested in from Juhyou-chan after all, he's gotta come ssuyo."

The witch waved her hands around while calling the nickname of her best friend, the Witch of Frost Covered Trees (Juhyou).

"No point in standing around in the middle of this snow ssu, shall we go inside the tower. I'll let the barrier open for a while, wouldn't want his excellency to lose his ways ssu."

The witch waved one of her hands, and then light emitting ice appeared on top of the snow, creating a path above the new snow.

"Amazing desuwa!"

"Gureato~"

"Witch person is really really amazing nodesu."

Karina, Tama and Pochi's eyes turned round when they saw what she did.

That seemed to have stimulated the witch's self-esteem, she led everyone toward the tower while saying, "I'm just that good ssuyo!" with a proud look.



"U~n."

At the Sage's Tower Library, Arisa groaned while looking at the ceiling with a pen between her upper lip and nose.

Hikaru who's reading documents next to Arisa is also racking her brain over their difficult research subject, [The transition of primeval magic to modern magic and variations].

"You think Mia's group has made a progress?"

"From what I heard from Zena after breakfast earlier, they're completely stuck at chantless magic since there's too few documents about it, but they're making progress on the differences in bodily sensation between the usage/non-usage of Chant Shortening skill, it seems."

"I see~ No wonder all these problems remain unsolved for more than 100 years."

After sighing so, Arisa suggested to focus their research on the transition part of [Transitions and Variations], since it seemed they could make an analogical reasoning about it from the materials they had on hands.

"About the transition periods, it's said that the propagation was not like the common slope shape, but more like stairs with stages in between."

"We know the propagation had stages because the transmission of information's speed periodically halted at countries' borders looking at the map."

The two draw different periods of propagation with colored pen, that Satou carefully made, on a transcribed map of the continent.

And they managed to draw several things from the visualized information.

"And if we trace that all the way back, the starting point was the 『Dragon's Valley』 to the north of Orc Empire..."

"Is it Dragon God-sama's work?"

"Or perhaps, Orc Empire was the original developer..."

If it were the former, there should have been legends and myths about Dragon God being the founder of modern magic.

The witch insisted that Demon God was the founder, but from what the two investigated, even though there were documents hinting to that, there was

close to zero that clearly gave an affirmation.

"There's barely nothing about the variation point, but it's clear that primeval magic is completely different than what we use today."

"Un. Compared to modern magic, Primeval Magic consumes extraordinary amount of mp, takes way too long to be cast, and you don't get headaches nor nausea like when you're trying to use magic without the corresponding elemental skill."

Hikaru agreed with Arisa's remark.

With Satou's guidance, the two have managed to cast simple primeval magic.

Though, on top of taking a long time, it's at a level of [got it cast somehow], so it has zero practical use.

"But there's too few documents about Orc Empire."

"Nothing we can do about that..."

Hikaru lets out a lonely smile.

"Guess we've got no choice but to ask Master to let us interview either Ri Fuu under the royal capital or Ga Hou under the duchy capital then~"

"--Ga Hou? Is Ga Hou living under the duchy capital?"

Arisa nodded repeatedly as Hikaru caught her shoulders and shook her.

"You know him?"

Arisa who escaped Hikaru's grasp with Warp magic asked.

"Un, Ga Hou was a proud 『Griffon Rider』 of the Orc Empire. After the war was over, I asked him to supervise the clean water facility of the old capital. He should have been living peacefully in a small autonomous region after I went to sleep. But there was not even a single orc when I visited that region after I woke up, when I asked Sete about it, he said all the orcs who lived there were all killed after the war 400 years ago--"

Hikaru began to reminisce on her past even before Arisa asked.

"But, I'm so glad he's alive..."

Hikaru muttered words filled with many thoughts.

Arisa clapped Hikaru's shoulders and said, "Let's go see him next time."

"--Master?"

Since she's connected to Satou as his familiar, Arisa lifted her face to feel the sense of oddity he felt.

"What's wrong Arisa?"

"Looks like our enemy's been caught in the net. It might be a decoy, so we should go help Nana who's watching over the 『Heart of Gold』 headquarter."

"Sure thing."

Since there's a possibility the enemy might detect their teleportation, Hikaru and Arisa run through back alleys toward the headquarter instead.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"--Tch."

A small man who had teleported into City-State Kariswolk clicked his tongue right after he got in.

"Teleport detection barrier and even seals on additional teleportation--we've been playing right into your hands have we not, Irregular!"

"Spot on--is what I'd have liked to say, but since the body double is here, that means the real one must be in another place huh?"

The small man--the body double talks back smugly at Satou who's appeared in front of him.

"You think I'll talk? --<Open>"

The body double took out a sinister looking elliptical orb from Item Box's black space.

"Death--"

Just before the body double could finish talking, Satou jumped into his bosom with Ground Shrink and put the elliptical orb into his Storage all the while neutralizing the man.

『Fool』

The moment an echoing voice resounded from the body double's chest, a white flash and an explosion rivaling that of an advanced magic swallowed the surroundings in.

『Kukakakakaka, you moved exactly like Chief-dono said you would, truly laughable, Irregular.』

A single Wraith Lord floated up at the place where the body double was.

『There is nothing alive that could withstand the [Cursed Flame of Kwaku]. Lament over it in hell, Irregular!』

The city that has turned into rubble is sunk in the flames.



"Seems like this place is a miss."

"Un, there are some suspicious people, but they're just ordinary suspicious."

"In agreement so I inform."

Arisa, Hikaru and Nana exchanged those words on top of a roof near the 『Heart of Gold』's headquarter.

"--It's here."

Hikaru muttered shortly.

"Seriously? Where?"

"Finding no fresh personnel within my vision so I inform."

Without answering Arisa and Nana who look around, Hikaru readies her wand.

"Divine Lance!"

A gigantic telephone pole-sized spear appeared next to Hikaru who's stood up.

"GOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!"

The gigantic spear pours down toward a spot that has no one around.

Pedestrians scream out, and run to the opposite side of the cloud of dust where the spear hit the ground.

"--Geez, I'm no match for ya. Talk 'bout reckless."

A small man who's caught the spear with his small green hand showed up from inside the cloud of dust.

"Hey hey, how'd ya find me? It shouldn't be possible for Analyze skill reincarnated people and heroes got from gods to see through me."

"Oh is that you Green. I didn't recognize you at first since you're not wearing your usual green outfits."

Hearing Hikaru's words, the small man seemed dumbfounded as he looked at his own skin.

"Nay y'know?"

"You can't weasel this out. Only Greater Demon Green can use Mana Camouflage and Avatar abilities."

The small man continues to deny Hikaru's accusation.

"Nay nay. Imma the original."

"--Original?"

"I taught Green 'bout ways to create Avatar, and 『Thief God Harness』 was given to me by milord-san."

The small man's corner of the mouth raised up under his hood.

"Well, who cares 'bout that. Lucky me for this chance to meet the 『God Banisher』 girl without Irregular around."

"You shall not lay your hands on Arisa so I announce."

Nana moves forward with a huge shield as if guarding Arisa from the small man's line of sight.

"I ain't gonna do that for the time bein', ya can rest assured."

He sighed as Nana didn't seem like she would relent, and then continued to prattle on.

"So, Arisa-han. I'll give ya half of the world, come over to our group will ya?"

"Out of question. Like there's still anyone who'd fall for that straight-to-bad-end route nowadays."

"Really now. Then how 'bout the whole round world? Wealth, fame, good food, good men, ya can have anything you want. I'm serious 'ere, that just how valuable a magician that can overwhelm gods is."

"My answer will not change no matter how many times you ask. I won't ever

leave Master's side, ever!"

Arisa refused the small man's temptation without a hint of hesitation.

"That's some spirit a'ight. But y'know, you can even obtain your beloved man's heart if you come with me. How 'bout that? You could monopolize a fickle man for yerself alone."

"Hmph, would you please stop making fools of Arisa-chan! Master--Satou's heart, Arisa-chan will get it with her own powers!"

Arisa gallantly shouted at the man.

"Izzat so. 'K then, go fer' it."

Since the negotiation failed, the small man turned on his heel.

"I'mma excuse myself before Irregular comes here. Since yer' all here, the vampirification plan musta been spoiled no?"

"You think we'll let you? I'd like to see you try running away from a space magician."

"She's also with a former hero here."

Hikaru stands up next to Arisa.

"Was wondering how yer' so well informed 'bout Green, ain't it the Ancestor King lil' lady. Ah heard yer' shutting yerself in the capital and rarely go with Irregular, yet here you are at this timin' eh."

The small man muttered.

"Well, whateva'. For yer' information, ya can use Avatar to create not only your own body--"

He took off the worn-out hood as he said that.

"No way--"

"I knew it--"

Hikaru and Arisa who saw his titles muttered polar opposite words.



"Who would have thought that you were hiding that kind of cards. The first one was a decoy huh."

Satou showed up from among the burning rubble.

He was covered in soot and dirt, but after using Life Magic, he appeared unscathed.

"Did you get it from Weasel Empire?"

『I know not its origin.』

"Is that so. I'll go ask Tactician myself later then."

The Wraith Lord that found Satou's composure puzzling distorted.

『What is this Irregular. Do you not realize that thousands of people who lived

in this city have perished because of your blunders? Have you no regret, no anger?』

The Wraith Lord blamed Satou for the thing it did.

"--Regret? None in particular though?"

『So those who call themselves heroes are incapable of admitting their own mistakes!』

The Wraith Lord unjustly enraged.

"I mean, there's no blunder."

『--What?』

"Have you not noticed yet? I dragged you to this sub-space right when my barrier detected that small man teleported in."

『What』

Wraith Lord looks around at the surroundings, as Satou spoke in amazement.

There is nary dense miasma and vengeful spirits that should have gotten

generated en masse after a genocide.

『Then, not a single life has been sacrificed?』

"That's right. Going out of your way to do a suicide bombing at Shiga Kingdom gave the hint of what you guys would do here after all."

Satou drew the holy sword hanging on his waist.

"What's your chief--"

『NUOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO』

The Wraith Lord ignored Satou and roared aloud, then the area surrounding it distorted black and began to suck in the surrounding rubble and flames.

It's apparently a self-destruct skill as the Wraith Lord's body itself is beginning to get sucked into the jet black hell.

『I shall be your guide to hell. Perish along with me, Irregular!』

"Nah, I'm good."

Satou slashed with the holy sword once, and the Wraith Lord that had been cut in half by a blue flash disappeared, however, the jet black hell it created still remains.

"Well, guess I'll just close it along with the sub-space--"

After muttering that, Satou erased the sub-space along with the Wraith Lord's final parting gift.

--Hm?

"Hordes of monsters near where Pochi and the others are?"

Judging from the Maps, Monster Tamer Homonculus are riding battle-ready tamed monsters, leading hordes of monsters toward City-State Kariswolk.

The witch tower where Pochi and the girls are visiting is apparently located in their route.



"Nyu!"

Tama raised her voice, and at the same time, the witch noticed that monsters had invaded her territory.

"Looks like some monsters slipped in cuz I let the barrier wide open ssune."

The girls who were enjoying bitter tea and Japanese-style confection immediately stood up after hearing the witch.

"Should we go exterminate those monsters?"

"I will take part in it!"

"No no ssuyo. I'd feel bad if my guests do all the work ssu."

The witch took up a pointy hat and a cane hanging on the wall.

Denied, Liza and Karina looked dejected.

"You sure~?"

"There's lots of big monsters nodesuyo?"

Tama and Pochi who saw monsters peeking between trees asked her out of concern.

"Don't worry, just watch ssu. A witch that's close to the Source she rules over is invincible ssu."

The witch runs up to the rooftop.

"I've got lots of mana in winter, just right ssu! ■■ Snowfall, ■■ Tornado, ■■ Thunderbolt, are efficient when used consecutively ssuyone~"

"Oh, gureato~?"

"Amazingly awesome nodesu!"

The Witch who can make use of the abundant Source mana butchers the monsters one after another.

Small, and mid-sized monsters that accompanied the big ones stopped moving after getting hit by the snow and lightning, but four big-sized monsters that were just wounded kept pushing their way through the snow toward the

tower.

"Ge ge, they're still alive after eating that many magic, must be real sturdy ssu!"

As the witch grumbled, a shining bullet shot through one of the big monsters' head.

"Lulu, unfair~"

"Pochi would like to have a shot too nodesu."

"Tama too~"

Tama and Pochi drew their trusty swords and immediately shot out magic edge cannons, crushing heads of two big monsters.

"T-the last one is my prey desuwa!"

Karina accumulates mana in her trusty gauntlets.

In the meanwhile, the last big monster bulldozed its way through the snow,

drawing close to the tower.

"A-are you not done yet? Maybe I should go for it--"

"I've gathered enough! Here I go!"

Interrupting the fretting witch, Lady Karina shot out her magic edge cannon, hitting the big monster's head.

"Too bad~"

"The kung fu is still lacking nodesu."

"Your focus is inadequate. Also, you won't be able to use it in practical combat unless you knead mana faster."

"Wha, this isn't the time for that ssu! ■■ Thunderbolt!"

The witch's magic managed to make the monster scream and stop it, but it still survived, and glared at the witch after roaring in anger.

"Karina-sama, do it like this."

Liza who kept her calm in contrast to the witch jerked her spear, and then a red light sphere whirled through the blizzard, and blew away the big monster's head.

Liza continued her explanations afterward, but the witch whose mouth was wide open in surprise couldn't hear a thing.

"I'm supposed to be the great witch-sama who rules over a Source though..."

The movements of monsters in the witch's territory was reflected in her head as she grumbled.

"Ge ge ge, all of the monsters are coming straight here ssu."

To be more accurate, all of the monsters besides the tamed monsters leading the hordes, however, a god not the witch has no way of knowing that.

"I'll do even better this time!"

"That won't be happening, it seems."

Lulu pointed at the sky while giving a negative to Karina's declaration.

"W-w-what is that!"

What looked like hundreds of thousands of light spheres rain down from the sky, shooting through the blizzard and monsters, grandly rolling up the snow in the field.

"Is anyone injured?"

"Master."

"Apparently, one of the terrorists from the other day attempted to throw us into disarray by sending hordes of monsters to Kariswolk city."

Satou who appeared in the sky greeted the witch and entered through a window.

"Then, the enemy's mastermind is at Kariswolk?"

"Yeah, seems so. I just got a rescue signal from Arisa."

"Take there~?"

Tama beckoned Satou with half of her body sunk in the shadow.

"I'm counting on you, Tama."

"Aye aye sir~"

"Ms. Witch, I'm sorry, but I'd have to postpone our talks for another day--"

After saying that, Satou and the girls disappeared into the shadow.

16-60. Sage's Tower (8)

Satou here. I loved the feasibility test before an experiment and the experiment itself, but I could never get myself to enjoy writing down the result into a report. Maybe it's like a programmer who loves to code but hates to write down documentation.



"Nyu? Not here~?"

Arisa and Hikaru weren't present at the place we teleported in.

I quickly scan over the Marker list.

--A sub-space huh.

"Let's go Tama."

"Aye~"

I hold Tama under my arm, and moved to the sub-space I created per Arisa's request.

"Looks tasty~?"

In the sub-space that housed houses of cakes, Arisa and Hikaru are fighting someone with a small stature wearing a ragged overcoat.

The small man easily dealt with force magic and fire magic that Hikaru and Arisa cast chantlessly.

Rather, it looks more like the small man and his agility is toying around with

Arisa and Hikaru.

Arisa got away along with Hikaru via Short-range Warp (Short Jump) and then she burned down everything around the small man with advanced level fire magic.

The aroma of burning chocolate and marshmallow are pervading here riding the violent explosion wind.

Hikaru drives down a telephone pole sized [Divine Lance] at a burning red sweet house.

The Divine Lance gouged the ground with a roaring sound and scattered fragments of sweets around, but it seemed to have missed the small man, I could see him running up the slanted Divine Lance at a tremendous speed.

AR information is displayed next to the small man.

In the middle of running up the Divine Lance, the small man squatted down and twisted its body even though there was nothing there, he must have evaded an invisible attack Arisa chantlessly cast with space magic.

--Level 99.

The small man brushed off all 15 of the [<<Multiple Javelin>>] Hikaru shot out, and then he kicked the air and jumped toward Arisa.

When he brushed off Hikaru's attack earlier, I could see his greenish skin color.

--He's got innumerable titles.

Arisa used Short-range Warp (Short Jump) and took Hikaru along with her, gaining some distance away from the man.

That overcoat seems to have been enchanted with high level Recognition Inhibition functions, but it cannot conceal everything before the AR readings.

--[Demon Lord].

That one caught my eyes among the countless titles the man had.

Amongst others, there are [Demon Lord], [Goblin Demon Lord], [Little Oni King], [Onikin King], [Skanda], [Coward], [Liar King], [Apostle of Thief God].

His level is a bit low, but judging from his titles, he must be the [Goblin

Demon Lord] whom Saga Empire founder hero defeated in the past.

"Nyu!"

The small man who was jumping mid air disappeared into black mist, and showed up behind Arisa who just Short Jump-ed herself.

His arm is clad in dark purple light, then a blade-like claw extended out of his bundled-up fingers.

Hikaru noticed his presence and swiftly turned around as countless shields of light block the small man's claw.

That's the late stage Fortress wall on Hikaru's equipment.

The shields that touched the claw blocked it while scattering sparks, but only for an instant, as it cut the shields up like butter in the next moment.

The claw approached Hikaru and Arisa who looked shocked--.

"Kyaaaaaaaa"

"Ugeeeeeeee"

--The two disappeared before the man as they screamed out.

"Tch."

The small man turns around here.

--His skills are unknown.

This guy seems to be a reincarnated person too, though it's not on his title.

"Eh? Master?"

"Ichirou-nii!"

Arisa and Hikaru shouted in surprise while in my arms.

"Irregular's here eh... I ended up showin' some one or two of my cards, hafta
scram soon--"

The small man dived into his shadow trying to run away as he said that.

--I won't let you tho'?

The shadow the small man tried to dive in disappeared while giving off sounds like an evaporating drop of water.

"Barrier that prevents one from goin' outside ey?"

The small man grumbled.

"This is the the first time we meet face-to-face, isn't it?"

"--Face to face? Ah yea yep."

The small man opened a black board that seemed to be [Item Box] skill while agreeing to me.

"I'll get straight to the point, what's your goal?"

"Ya think I'm gonna answer just cuz you ask?"

The small man took out a purple pocket watch and a strange looking wand from the black board.

Leaving aside the wand, I've got a bad feeling about the pocket watch.

"Dangerous!"

Looks like Tama who's still under my arm feels the same too.

I tried to snatch it away with space magic [Item Pull (Aport)], but it seems there's a countermeasure against it built into the pocket watch, the magic failed.

"Familiars, go."

With a single swing of the wand, countless bluish-green colored goblins appeared in the air.

According to AR readings, they're called [Demi Goblin - Air Walker].

The demi goblins rush toward us while running in the air like using Sky Drive.

Each of them is level 50, they don't feel too different to the familiars the Dog-head Demon Lord summoned.

I snap my fingers, then shadows stretch out from below all of the demi goblin, bind them and swallow them all into those shadows.

"Ew that's nasty~ You can even use shadow magic eh."

"Nope, it's ninjutsu."

To be honest, I'm not sure if it could even be called ninjutsu.

But since Tama-sensei who's standing next to me is looking satisfied like, "Mufu~", yeah, let's call it ninjutsu.

Arisa and Hikaru pull my sleeves.

Looks like they're done with their preparations.

"Mythology Extension."

"Mythology Down"

Hikaru and Arisa both cast forbidden magic together.

To assist them, I bind the demon lord mid air using Tama's shadow ninjutsu.

The shadow was negated in an instant, but countless rainbow colored light bands produced from Hikaru's forbidden magic [Mythology Extension] wrap the demon lord, binding and eroding his body.

"WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO"

The screaming demon lord was erased along with the sub-space by Arisa's [Mythology Down].



"Even though Warship Wand wasn't available, using anti-god magic might've been too much."

The bracelet that was used in place of Warship Wand broke into pieces due to the load from the magic.

Looks like personal equipment really is unusable for anti-god type forbidden magic's usage.

Might be a good idea to equip everyone with the mass-produced Warship Wand asap.

"Ahaha, I mean our opponent was an 『Avatar』 anyway, wasn't it an ideal target for test firing?"

--Pseudo Body (Avatar)?

It's the [Create Avatar] ability that the [Greater Demon Green] used to create a scapegoat when I fought it in the royal capital back then.

"That was an Avatar?"

I asked Hikaru while recalling the green colored skin the demon lord had.

Tama isn't here since I tasked her to survey the surrounding area after the sub-space disappeared.

"Un, he said that he was the one who taught the ability to the 『Greater Demon Green』."

"Shouldn't we meet up with the other girls first? I think Liza-san and Nana would be fine, but it could get a wee bit bad for other girls."

"Ah, you're right."

I pull Tama here with Unit Arrangement and go back to Kariswolk City where everyone is.

I tried searching [Pseudo Body (Avatar)] in all existing Maps, but I found no hit.

I hadn't noticed since I wouldn't know whether he was an Avatar or not without glancing at the [Race] data. I mean it had [Goblin Demon Lord] title, so I ignored unimportant info like Race and Age.

If only I knew that it was an Avatar at the start, I would have traced the line back to its original body before destroying the Avatar, too bad.

Well, since I got to find out about our opponent's identity and goal, and also destroyed the dangerous-looking pocket watch along with the Avatar, it's all good.

I couldn't read through all the information since he hid himself among the Demi Goblin crowds midway through, but that pocket watch was a sacred treasure called [Thief God---] something.

I've also found out that [Goblin Demon Lord] is capable of breaking through late stage Fortress, seems like a good idea to develop a personal-type Castle which is even sturdier than Fortress, and emergency escape equipment that make Short Jump usable.

Feels like I could make something better if I analyzed the [Light Lid of Heavenly Protection] sacred treasure that was protecting cities in the floating island of Lalakie I encountered during the Divine Punishment.

Ah, the [Damnation Cannon] I found in the investigation of the floating island of Lalakie should prove useful to update Lulu's accelerated cannon too.

While I was thinking that, we met up with the other girls, shared information about [Goblin Demon Lord], and [Avatar] with whom it may concern and resumed the trial.

Of course, since the demon lord might come attacking again with a new [Avatar], I've put up space-detection barriers on Kariswolk city and other cities where my acquaintances are.

Maintaining these barriers in dozens of location is pretty tough as expected,

hope they come and take the bait quick.



<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"--a failure huh."

"It cannot be helped. It's a providence of Gods after all."

Sera who heard me muttering overlaps her palm on top of mine to encourage me.

"You're right..."

The spell did activate, however the dead insect in front of me gave no reaction whatsoever.

It was a success when I was testing it in the Experimental Domain (Sand Box) used for simulations, but when I tried to use the revival magic in reality, it didn't go well, my mana dispersed along with an odd sensation that felt like the spell

got canceled right before it was activated.

Just as Sera said, the [Providence of Gods] might be at work here.

"Guilty."

Mia with puffed up cheeks pulled my hand from under Sera's, and embraced it in her chest.

I feel like that's an out too, but since Sera doesn't seem like she's minding a children's cute jealousy, I'll let Mia do as she likes.

"You failed the resurrection magic huh~, that's too bad."

"Guess we'll have to look for resurrection items that work like God Tenion's Sacred Treasure."

Hikaru and Arisa exchanged such conversation behind us.

Similar to me and Arisa who cannot get god's blessing, Hikaru who's got God Parion's divine protection can't clear the prerequisite to use the [Artifact of Revival]--blessed by God Tenion--, like Arisa, she has no way to get revived.

"There is no need to get discouraged."

"That's right, Satou-san! The result here alone is amazing by itself!"

Princess Sistina and Zena-san consoled me when they saw the result of the resurrection magic demonstration.

"It's amazing alright."

"Rather than amazing, it's just absurd isn't it."

"Well, this much is nothing for our Cheat Master."

Arisa and Hikaru, so cruel.

There is a rat energetically devouring its fodder inside a cage in front of Princess Sistina and Zena-san.

That rat is the specimen that was formerly a [Vampire Rat].

Resurrection magic may have ended in failure, but I've succeeded in turning undead back into living creatures.

Of course, it can't be used to turn back every kind of undead.

Lesser and unbranded vampires, like [Vampire Rats] can be turned back into living creature--normal rat, without any problem. I can't say for sure whether it's possible for greater vampires because I've got no test subject for it.

However, on the other hand, doing it on intangible undead like ghost and such made them disappear like they were purified, while skeleton and zombies turned into ash.

For ghouls and stuff, most specimens died the moment they were turned back into living creatures.

In just one case, a ghoul survived in the form of something beast-like, but then it rapidly grew old in just one night and died.

"But really, how'd you even get to this point in just two days? Is it Cheat for real?"

"Of course not. I know someone who's an expert in ghosts and those with ethereal body, so I've got them to show me various documents."

Arisa said it like it was easy, but developing magic to turn undead back into the living was quite tough.

When I asked Leiane who's of an unusual [Half Ghost] race about it just because, I ended up having to listen about her life when she was living in the floating island Lalakie in the age of myth.

Lalakie's populace was originally humans, but they transformed into [Half Ghost] through the work of an institution called [Mausoleum of Noble Ascension], and eventually they would discard their physical and soul body and sublimed into a mental life form called [Lalakie Happy Folk].

When I asked her if she had documents pertaining it, she introduced me to the core control system in the main control room of the floating island Lalalkie, a mother computer-like AI, I was able to learn about occult beings like soul body, ethereal body and even anima children from it.

Thanks to such knowledge, I succeeded in creating a composite spell of soul and light magic, [Undead to Life].

As the spell ended up having almost twice the capacity of an average forbidden spell, I think I'm the only person in the world that can do it on a personal level.

Eventually, I'm thinking of disassembling it into a ritual magic that can be cast by multiple casters, but it's too troublesome, so I plan to out-source the job to someone outside.

"So, Master. Are you going to announce this result? Religion-wise, it's gonna

get you like, burned at stake you know?"

Arisa said something ominous.

"Eh, really?"

"It's because undead are considered evil monsters that are different from ordinary living beings..."

Sera said so hesitantly.

Since the topic is [Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead], the latter half can be written down without problem, as for the first half--

"Then let's just submit a report that affirms the reversibility of undead to living transformation, leaves the possibility of turning back vampires and other undead open while clearly writing down that 『You can't overturn death』, citing examples of the failures in the experiments with zombies and ghosts, but half successful with ghouls."

--We decided to sum it up like such.

Before I started to work on the report, I transform the priests who were kept in a sub-space, and the people I left with progenitor Ban, back into humans.

Of course, I wasn't in Satou form, but as a [Mysterious Priest Koubou].

To prevent some of the priests from killing themselves, I told them that it was a miracle done through an item made of orichalcum posed as a sacred treasure.

Killing themselves after turning back to their original state through a miracle of god would mean betraying their gods after all.

I felt a bit guilty when I saw them extolling the glory of gods in tears, but I convinced myself that this was a form of help too as I returned them back to their country each.

Now that I'm done helping people and all, guess it's time to write the report that will be submitted to [Sage's Tower].

[Previous Chapter](#)

16-61. Sage's Tower (9)

Satou here. I needed to write a lot of papers in my university days, but the chance never presented itself after I became a member of society, unless it was an event outside the company. Though well, I do need to write materials for presentations quite often....



"--Is there any more questions for Satou-kun? No? Well then, let us take a vote. Anyone who has objections regarding the thesis presented by Saotou-kun about [Denying the irreversibility of the transformation from living being into undead], please raise your hand."

When I submitted the finished paper to Sage's Tower, Sage Kanryu scanned over it before he gave the order for an emergency summoning of the tower's board of directors, and then I ended up having to present the paper before them.

Since a sage from time immemorial had asked God Karion about resurrection magic and got a negative as his reply, they didn't fuss over the part about it in my paper.

In addition, the spell I used to verify the validity of my thesis, [<<Undead to Life>>] got designated as a forbidden spell, but since I had gone the trouble of developing the spell and all, I had it recorded in the Sage's Tower [Sealed Depository] with the condition of it having [Creator Unknown] description.

"It appears there is no objection. Then we shall accept the thesis, and award

Satou-kun with Doctorate title, and his assistant, Sera-kun with Master title."

"--Objection!"

A plump professor who was spearheading the inquiries, or rather, the verbal arguments during my presentation of the thesis stood up and shouted out loud.

"Professor Padoru, do you have any objection?"

"I do!"

I don't really care either way as long as the thesis is accepted.

If the titles from Sage's Tower would end up wasting my time here, I'd rather not get any.

But before I could speak up and decline the offer--.

"Doctorate title is way too paltry for a thesis as monumental as this!"

--Huh?

"The one who has solved an 『Unsolved Problem』 that no one has accomplished before should be given the title 『Sage』, not 『Doctorate』!"

The plump professor's shout was backed by a massive round of applause.

Sage Kanryu was going to give me the position of Sage's Tower's supervisor along with the Sage title, but I firmly refused it and we eventually agreed for me to just get into the rank of the tower's board of directors instead.

The formal award ceremony and celebration will be held tomorrow.

>Title [Doctorate] Acquired.

>Title [Sage] Acquired.



"Your excellency, congratulations in your achievement of solving an 『Unsolved Problem』."

When I got to the Karion Main Temple, a troupe consisting of high-ranking priests, Miko Maiya and the stern looking temple head welcomed me.

Apparently, Sage Kanryu had informed them ahead of time as they had finished preparing the ceremony to do the Divine Mingle with God Karion.

『--O God. Prudent God we revere.』

A bright light fell down from the heavens after Miko Maiya called.

It's a comforting vermilion colored light. Is it just me or does it feel brighter than the light before.

Miko Maiya's ecstatic expression slackened.

Looks like she's entered the trance state.

『...Good boy.』

God Karion uttered only one word, yet at the same time, the thoughts, [Blessing], [Praise], and [Satisfaction] flowed unto me.

『For you.』

A deep vermilion glitter is born in the center the vermilion light, and then it crystallizes into the shape of a book.

According to AR readings, it's called [Book of Wisdom, Karisfel], a type of [Divine Gift Treasure].

An unfamiliar gem called [Wisdom Spring Stone] is embedded in the book's spine.

Later on, I learned that this book is able to look up all kinds of spell chant of basic magic, which is very helpful.

The majority of magic I developed myself isn't recorded in it though, so it's not like it has everything.

Nevertheless, there's a still lot of magic I don't know written in it, so I plan to use the book to register them into my Magic List when I have time.

>Title [Saint of Karion] Acquired.

>Title [Apostle of Karion] Acquired.

>Title [Librarian] Acquired.



"To celebrate Satou-kun's successful trial and the discovery of the solution for an 『Unsolved Problem』, let's cheerssu!"

Cheers and sounds of glasses bumping echoed in the room.

On my way back after submitting the paper and got a graduation certificate-like Trial-passing Acknowledgment thing from Karion Main Temple, I dropped by [Ice Field Witch]'s tower, there, the drinker witch-san suggested we held a party.

"I never thought that someone would find a solution for one of the 『Unsolved Problems』... Satou-dono you truly have great talents not only as a warrior but also as a prevalent scholar."

Thus, Raker-kun, an apprentice of [Frost Tree Witch] praised me.

That's cool and all, but please stop holding my hands while sending hot glances with your drunken droopy eyes, I'm feeling a crisis of my virtue here.

In addition to Arisa and Hikaru, Princess Sistina who recently got into it with them are looking here with anticipating looks, this is tough.

"Indeed, you're really incredible. Raker-kun, be sure to follow sir Pendragon's example, you hear me."

"Yes, master!"

His master, [Frost Tree Witch] is the same too. She's got a fine bust that exceeds even Lady Karina, but her waist size follows and is great too, so I don't feel too great having her plump big arms circling my neck.

"We're not gonna lose to him ourselves, 'rite Hyoun-chan."

"You betcha'."

The two witches inclined their wine glasses while nodding at each others.

"I would've gone to Tokiswolk myself if I weren't bound to my Source~"

"Didn't you send that debauchee in your stead there?"

"That's 'rite. Wonder when Shigan-kun's gonna come back from his ruin investigation~"

--Shigan?

An unexpected name came out of Witch-san's mouth.

That reminds me, I was planning to investigate about the guy when I arrived at [Sage's Tower] but I completely forgot about it due to the abundance of stuff I had to do.

"Are you perhaps, acquainted with Shigan Saga?"

"He's a scholar who regularly comes and go to my tower, y'see. Satou-kun, you know him too?"

"Oh, no, I never met with the person himself, but an acquaintance of mine at Tokiswolk Kingdom mentioned to me that Shigan-dono has gone missing ever since the vampire incident..."

"Oh I'm sure he's fine. Shigan-kun is good at erasing his presences, he ain't gonna get killed so easily y'see."

"That kid is bad at reading map, he's probably lost even now."

Looks like the two witches-san don't want to believe the passing of Shigan Saga.

It seems they get it already deep down, I'll just dispatch a letter about the passing through Tokiswolk Kingdom later.

"So I'm wondering what's Shigan-shi's research subject about?"

"Shigan-kun is researching about the seal of Demon God, you see."

--Geh, seriously?

"Did he, you know, find out a way to undo the seal?"

"There ain't no way to undo a seal placed by Gods, y'know."

Unlike Witch-san, Shigan-shi was not a demon god adherent, he was researching the topic with the goal, "With a barrier that can even seal the Demon God, sealing demon lords should be easy with it", in mind.

"It's said that you can go to Hell where Demon God-sama is sealed through the Hell Gate, but there's no document supporting that claim anywhere to be

found ssuyone."

Thus, the credibility of such claim is still in question even now.

"Who said that stuff about Hell Gate?"

"It was Shigan-kun's friend ssuyo. It was a small old man from the same hometown as Shigan-kun's ssu."

Shigan-shi's hometown means that he's from Saga Empire.

"Around several months ago, he came here to ask me to investigate a place at Tokiswolk Kingdom where Shigan-kun had gone ahead to."

"Oh, that small man who spoke with a weird Saga Language accent huh... I don't trust that guy."

"Raker-kun, you're always so quick to distrust someone you just met ssune."

--Weird accent.

I have an idea of who that could be.

When I tried to mimic the demon lord's accent and asked for Witch Apprentice's opinions, he replied with, "Yeah, just like that."

"Did that person have green colored skin?"

"Green? No no, he's not a monster y'know. It's your ordinary skin color ssu."

--Did I get it wrong?

Or so I thought, but then Arisa whispered to me, "That guy had ordinary skin color when we first encountered him too."

Looks like his sheep's clothing came undone because of the intense fight against Arisa and Hikaru.

"Raker-kun, do you know where the accent is from?"

"I wonder? I have no idea, master might know though?"

According to Raker-kun, his master was born in Saga Empire.

Frost Tree Witch-san tells me where it is after prefacing it with, "Don't come

back complaining if I get it wrong okay."

"Near poor villages at Kishuo District to the east of Saga Empire, you see. There's this place with traces from an ancient battlefield where a fierce clash with Orc Empire 700 years ago occurred, and a withered dungeon."

Since I found the rough location, I went there myself after the banquet, but there were only ordinary countryside villages over there, I couldn't find members of some suspicious society or hideouts of any sort.

While I was at it, I also visited the ruin at Tokiswolk Kingdom where Shigan-shi went to investigate at.

There were traces of someone investigating the ruin, I also found heaps of preserved food and stuff there.

Unfortunately, the great majority of slates had their inscriptions scrapped off, so I didn't find a new information about the demon god.

I had investigated the leftovers, and I could found no clue other than the fact that they belonged to research groups from various countries including Tokiswolk Kingdom.

Well, that demon lord from the other day probably instigated this.

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"So we couldn't finish our thesis until the end after all."

"It should take us about another half a month, we can do it if we tackle it in between our free time."

Back at the Solitary Island Palace, I found Hikaru and Arisa having a discussion while organizing bundles of papers.

Apparently the two have finished their work up to the transition part of their research subject, [The transition of primeval magic to modern magic and variations], all that's left is the variations part.

I'm intrigued about it myself, so I'm going to be the first person who will read their paper when it's done.

"And how about you Tina-sama, how's your group doing?"

"Oh, currently we're exploring the possibility of chant annulment through Chant Shortening skill as the first step toward Chantless magic."

Princess Sistina replied to Arisa.

The members who aren't too familiar with magic look confused as the difference is a bit hard to comprehend.

[Chant Shortening] skill shorten a spell by overwriting the variables in the spell with preset fixed values from the skill.

On the other hand, [Chant Annulment] omits the spell chant itself and enables magic activation just by reciting the last part that is [Execution Verse].

And the [Chantless Magic] that I, Arisa and Hikaru regularly use omits both the spell part and the [Execution Verse] of magic.

Even excepting my chantless magic that comes from my Unique Skill [Menu], Arisa and Hikaru's version is a hidden function of the [Self Status] skill they got from gods when they were reincarnating and getting transported here, thus I think even ordinary people have a chance to obtain it.

After all, even though [Self Status] is a Divine Gift, it's not a Unique Skill that comes from a [God's Fragment].

"Hey, hey, master. Can you make an item that has similar function like what Tina-sama said?"

"Sorry, I didn't catch it."

"Geez! Listen closely okay. Tina-sama, another go please."

While saying the onomatopoeia of being mad, punpun, out loud, Arisa handed over the talk to princess Sistina.

"With ordinary spell chants, it's possible to put the activation of a finished chant on hold until you recite the Execution Verse right?"

"Yes, it's an indispensable ability in a fight."

That kind of skill does not exist, however, you can't do a feint if you can't do this, making it hard to hit agile enemies with magic.

"Then perhaps it may be possible to create a magic item that can 『Save』 such On-Hold state."

Saving On-Hold state huh.

That's quite a broad concept.

"Sounds interesting. I'm not exactly sure if it's possible or not yet, but I'll make sure to do a research on it."

I can't imagine how the magic circuit would be like right now, but if this goes well, it should enlarge the scope of possible tactics that can be employed, and if other people can activate the reserved magic, the vanguard group can get a nice boost all at once.

It's more than worthy enough to research on.

"Kuro-sama! We've got a huge trouble!"

A woman rushed into the room while I was excitedly pondering over the magic circuit.

The usually always composed Tifaliza was unusually expressive.

"T-the Parion Holy Hand!"

It's the country where the Parion Main Temple is located, where I need to

take on the last trial.

I don't have much good memories about the country, but since I did rule the City Core there once albeit temporarily, can't say I'm unrelated to it.

I've liberated myself from that City Core after a few experiments since I have no particular need for that City Core.

"The Parion Holy Land has been destroyed!"

Whoa, now that's a surprise.

16-62. Holy Land Parion, Once Again (1)

Satou here. [No nation lasts forever], said someone in a anime with Milky Way for its setting, but when you're living in a relatively peaceful country, [downfall of nation] simply feels like a thing of distant future.



"Did a revolution or a coup d'etat break out at last?"

I nonchalantly asked Tifaliza who came here to report the news about Parion Holy Land's destruction.

Despite falling into a slightly critical situation during the Divine Punishment, Parion Holy Land received help from Saga Empire heroes to cull out monsters in the surrounding areas, so I don't believe it would be destroyed due to an external factor.

It could happen due to a raid by some beings such as demon lords or greater demons, however, there's usually an omen before those bunch show up, and since Parion Main Temple has multiple [Oracle Miko], they should receive a prophecy from God Parion if they're going to suffer a country-destroying raid.

"I-it's not that! Parion Holy Land suffered devastating damages from a surprise attack launched by a greater demon, all the priests including Pope Zazaris that were present in the Holy City are either deceased or missing."

--Geh. Looks like the country is really on the verge of downfall.

It's weird how there isn't an oracle about it even though it's the home territory of God Parion--or maybe not. After all, the country's key figures were under control of demon lord believers, it won't surprise me if God Parion has given up on them.

Fortunately, the greater demon apparently didn't have any interest in buildings that weren't related to the Pope Governmental Agents which included the cathedral, thus after sporadically attacking the populace with magic like it was torturing them, it summoned its underling and simply drove the citizens out of the city.

"Are other cities besides the Holy City safe?"

"We're having difficulties acquiring information, we don't have info other than from the operatives that were in the Holy City."

Well considering, the transmission speed of information network, that's only to be expected.

According to Tifaliza, the accident itself happened a few days ago.

"We've got to help them quick!"

"Food sharing~?"

"Leave it to Pochi to take care of queue nanodesu."

Tama and Pochi struck the shupin pose next to Arisa as she made a declaration while raising her fist up high.

"You two, first we need to take care of the demons and monsters that are infesting the city."

"Aye!" "Nanodesu!"

After getting reproved by Liza, the two rushed out of the room while saying, "Preparing to sortie, nanodesu."

"Mito, sorry but could you guard the rear together with her highness Sistina?"

"Un, I got it."

I feel sorry to leave her out of a lot of stuff, but I'm confident that Hikaru is able to deal with any situations.

"Satou, you're not going to ask me?"

Princess Sistina said that with a sulkish tone.

"Your highness Sistina, could you protect the royal capital together with

Mito?"

"Yes, I'd gladly comply with your wish, Satou."

I can rest easy knowing Princess Sistina and her army of defensively equipped Orichalcum Golem would protect Hikaru.

"Tifaliza, sorry but please relay this to the royal castle--Hero Nanashi is heading to Parion Holy Land."

"I understand. Should I inform them that Mito-sama is staying behind to guard the royal capital as well?"

I gave my consent to Tifaliza and instructed everyone to get ready to depart.



"Uwaah, they're really thorough..."

While everyone is changing, I've gone ahead to a teleport base that I made

while I was updating map info at Parion Holy Land with Unit Arrangement, here to scout ahead of time.

The Pope's Administrative Sanctuary in the central city and the great majority of temples in various places have been destroyed.

According to the data I retrieved from Map, half of the priests have lost their lives.

Since this country's politics come as a set with religion, the administrative functions have been practically paralyzed now.

Just like the info I got beforehand, the citizens have been driven out of the cities, there isn't anyone that needs saving inside all the cities.

Several lesser demons and their tamed monsters were chasing the banished citizens around like they were playing with them, thus I created artificial spirits [Gryphon Riders] to rescue those people.

According to Map info, there is no greater demon nor demon lord inside Parion Holy Land's map.

In addition, a large airship and two accompanying medium-sized airships from Saga Empire with heroes on board have just arrived at the outer edge of Parion Holy Land, letting them aid the populace would make things easier.

"Now then, next is--"

I use space magic [Clairvoyance] to see the sky above the Holy City where a lot of red dots are concentrated.

Thick dark clouds are hanging above the Holy City's sky, so I lower my view down.

--Hm?

After the view came out of the cloud, I could see black gleaming airship-like things with organic-looking silhouettes floating above the Holy City.

According to Map info, they're apparently called Demon Ships of around level 50, they're a type of mid class demon.

Besides several of such Demon Ships, there are also monsters that look like a combination of a jellyfish and a balloon, called Evil Balloon floating about in the air. These ones are around level 20.

Lesser demons are loitering about above ground in the Holy City, creating more Undead and Construct-type monsters from dead bodies and debris.

Dozens of incorporeal undead monsters like Ghosts and Wraiths of around

level 20-40 have gathered in the demolished site of the cathedral.

I found a 『Immortal Magic King (Lich)』 whose level was unusually low at 25 in the center of them.

Ordinarily, most Liches are level 40, so I checked its detailed info out of curiosity.

For some reason, the Lich has many close quarter combat skills.

It's intriguing alright, but there's a more important point.

This Lich possesses Unique Skills.

Three of them, which are [Unparalleled Pulverization (Nothing that cannot be pulverized)], [Infinite Regeneration (Rebirth)], [Infinite Propagation (Division)].

"Weird..."

Is it just me or are these Unique Skills are a mix of both heroes' and reincarnated people's.

Well, I drew this conclusion from experience though, I won't be surprised if

the naming trends proved to be wrong.

Of course, I also checked on its titles, but this Lich is neither a [Hero] nor a [Demon Lord].

Its name doesn't sound Japanese either, it's [Anmeikusibi], doesn't ring a bell.

"--Homonculus?"

After looking closer at the NB info, I found out that this Lich was originally a Homonculus before turning into a Lich.

Since Homonculi should have their creator name in its info, I tried to look up further and found a fake-sounding name attached, [Nemo].

I've got an idea whose fake name it belongs to, but for now I'll write a memo about it on the Memo Pad of Alternate column.

『Master, we're ready to sortie out.』

Arisa had called me through the Familiar Line, thus I put a stop on the mystery Lich's investigation, and went back to the Solitary Island Palace.



"--And that's the results of my preliminary investigation."

At the palace, I shared the info I got to the girls who were ready with their gold and silver equipment.

The silver equipment may look the same outwardly, however they've been improved so that their capabilities and pure raw defense don't fall behind the gold ones.

"A unique Skill holder huh..."

"Infinite regeneration would mean that we will need to bring it down in one hit to emerge victorious."

Liza gave her analysis to deal with it as Arisa muttered.

"It might be a bad match with Nana-san if it really could break anything."

"Negative. There is no problem if I do not get hit, so I inform."

Nana replied to the worried Lulu with confidence.

"Evasion Shield~?"

"Shupapapapa, nanodesu."

Hearing their conversation, Tama dance and wriggle around, and Pochi who found it funny attempts to take stabs on Tama with her hand shaped like a sword as they play around.

"Since the Holy City has been turned into ruins already, attacking with Mia's artificial spirits, my fire magic and Lulu's accelerated cannon would be the quickest."

"Pochi wants to take action too nodesu!"

"Then, let's leave the demon ship to Liza-san and Pochi to deal with. Sera-tan will take on the undead on ground, Zena-tan the creatures there, and Karina-sama will deal with the lesser demons."

After giving orders, Arisa turned around and asked me, "Master, is that okay with you?"

"Yeah, so long as you leave the Lich alone, all's good."

"What about the Lich?"

"I'll try to get in contact with it and see if we can establish a conversation."

Just like the [True Ancestor of Vampires] Ban, and [King of Corpse] Corpse and the others in the labyrinth's lower layer, it might turn out to be a friendly undead that can be reasoned with.

"If it's no good, you girls can attack and defeat it."

"Gotcha. I could do something like 『Cultivation of Greater Demons』 if it went and multiplied en masse with its Infinite Propagation."

After reminding Arisa who said some gamer-like thing, "Everything in moderation, okay", I moved everyone to the Parion Holy Land with Unit Arrangement.



"Oh my? It's started already."

Saga Empire's large airship is already fighting the Demon Ship above the Holy City Parion.

I thought it would take awhile before they got here, so this was a bit unexpected.

The accompanying medium airships are fighting the Evil Balloons.

A cone-shaped flame radiated out of the large airship, swallowing Demon Ships that kept shooting out black cannonballs.

That's probably Hero Yuuki's attack magic.

"Fire~?"

"I think it's about as strong as Arisa's Inferno."

"Did that took them down?"

"No, it doesn't seem so."

On the other side of the flame's black smoke, Demon Ships jumped out of it while dragging black smoke.

Looks like the Demon Ships' magic barrier successfully blocked Hero Yuuki's attack magic.

"It's pretty strong for a level 50."

Even while Arisa was stating her impression, the large airship where Hero Yuuki was and the five Demon Ships went farther away from the Holy City's sky as they kept fighting.

"--Ah."

I saw someone jumping out of the large airship and boarded on one of the Demon Ships.

I checked on it while thinking that there's no one else besides her who would do that, and sure enough it was Hero Meiko who's good with close quarter combat. And after she just got a sound beating by the Guardian Dragon of Dragg Kingdom the other day, as usual she's really a battle junkie who loves to pick a reckless fight.

The hero that could be seen in the hatch where Hero Miko jumped out is

probably the search-type Hero Seigi.

Looks like the last one, Hero Fuu didn't get dispatched either this time.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Well then, let's begin the clean-up of Holy City."

After saying that, I headed toward the cathedral site in the center of the city together with the girls.

"■■ Purification (Turn Undead)!"

All kinds of undead that were in the Holy City came to assault us, but none could even get close as the Silver Knight Holy, aka Sera, purified them into dust with her holy magic.

The few rare ones that managed to escape her purification, like Wraith Knights and Wraith Mages, still ended up getting indiscriminately purified by

Sera's multi cast Turn Undead.

"Incoming enemy from the right forward. Doesn't seem to be undead."

From the direction Arisa pointed, lesser demons with Living Objects and Blood Golems created from debris are coming toward here in tow.

"...■■ Heavy Hurricane Hammer"

Silver Knight Air, aka Zena-san, routed the weaklings with her wind magic, Nana's force art bored the lesser demons full of holes, and Silver Knight Kung-Fu, aka Lady Karina, rushed up to another lesser demon with Flickering Move, and pulverized it with a fighting game character-like flying kick.

"Nin nin."

A lesser demon that specialized in stealth tried to sneak on us, but Tama who had appeared behind the demon without anyone knowing lopped its weirdly-shaped head off.

"Ninjas really are all about head hunting~"

I don't think Arisa's remark is right, but since I'm concerned about the movement on the Map, I resist the urge to quip her and concentrate on it instead.

Apparently, those related to the temple are heading to the Holy City through air routes.

Looking with [Clairvoyance], it's a group consisting of an elderly miko-san, a bald space magician, and two stern-looking temple knights riding a [Magic Carpet].

The space magician immediately noticed my [Clairvoyance] and used a counter spell.

Although my [Clairvoyance] didn't actually get shut out by his counter spell, I canceled it nevertheless since there was no need to watch them.

"...■■■■ <<Sacred Turn Undead>>"

Looks like she's gotten fed up with it, as Sera uses a wide area purification magic assisted by the silver armor's range expansion function.

Seemingly feeling bored, Arisa brought up a subject, "Y'know, the highest

level spells have 'Sacred' on the name with Holy Magic, but all other magic have 'Divine' on them, is there any meaning to that I wonder?"

It's quite an interesting topic, but we're in the middle of a battlefield right now, so I shut her down, "Later when we get back to the Solitary Island Palace."

"Master, look at the sky!"

Nana pointed at the sky.

A medium sized airship that was fighting an Evil Balloon got entangled in the octopus-like tentacles, and then the next moment, a huge explosion occurred with roaring sounds.

The medium airship still managed to stay in air even while raising black smoke, but the Evil Balloons are fast approaching the slowed down airship one after another.

That ship would have gone down if that many Evil Balloons exploded themselves.

"--Lulu."

"Yes!"

Lulu set up her portable accelerated cannon and shot down the Evil Balloons one after another.

Sniper Lulu's shooting never missed a target, all the enemies in air got shot down in the blink of an eye.

『Master.』

『Thanks for waiting nanodesu.』

Liza's and Pochi's voices came through the always connected Tactical Talk.

Looking at the direction where the blue dots are approaching fast, I could see dragons of various colors, White, Green, and Black coming here.

Pochi's dragon ride, the white dragon was in the plan, but I never expected the infant green dragon and even the black dragon to come along too.

Green Dragon is one thing, but I'm amazed to see Black Dragon could pass through the gate.

Liza isn't riding on the white dragon, she's flying together with them with her new Powered Exoskeleton.

The fuel consumption rate is so bad a single flight would consume one Crimson Treasure, it still needs some improvements.

『Pochi, Liza, and Heiron, go shoot down the Evil Balloons that are attacking the large airship.』

『Yes nanodesu.』

『Acknowledged!』

Liza and the three dragons passed through the Holy City's sky in no time flat, then the infant dragon and the black dragon shot out their laser-like [Dragon Breaths] toward the Evil Balloons.

Black Dragon Heiron's breath blasted away the Evil Balloons instantly, however, the infant dragon's breath got blocked by the Evil Balloon's barrier even though it hit.

『Breaths are unfair nodesu!』

『Pochi, let's give the finishing touch.』

『Roger nanodesu!』

A bit after Pochi's flustered shout, the white dragon roared.

Pochi and the others should be able to handle the sky.

"Okay then, I'm off for a bit."

After arriving at the cathedral site, I said that to the girls and dived into shadow.

Would be nice if this Lich is someone who could be reasoned with.

16-63. Holy Land Parion, Once Again (2)

Satou here. Making a mistake in the way you exterminate pest would invite a large outbreak of pest in rebound, said someone in TV and SNS. What's important is knowing the correct information.



"Is that the entrance to the City Core's room?"

I went through shadows with Tama and arrived at the sanctuary underground, where the [Immortal Magic King (Lich)] was.

Countless Undeads are trying their hardest to get to the City Core, and the Lich in question is apparently among them.

Every time the Lich's fists clad in purple light hit the floor, the blue magic barrier gets broken apart like scattered sparks.

"Anmeikusibi!"

I tried to call out the tongue-twisting name of the Lich, but it gave no reaction.

Got the same result even after I called its creator's name, [Nemo].

The Lich just keeps on striking the door located on the floor without a care in the world.

Looks like this ex-homonculus Lich has little to no ego, it feels like it can only follow the orders given to it like a machine.

Instead, a Wraith Lord who had been pompously commanding the Undead from behind them noticed and glared at me with its hollowed eyes that glowed dark red lights.

--ZRWEEEAITYTTTZH!

The Wraith Lord screamed out grossly and charged at us while brandishing its bishop's staff.

--Oh?

I was going to purify it with some anti-Undead light magic, but since its face felt familiar, I stopped myself and punched it with a mana-clad fist instead.

AR reading tells me this Wraith Lord has no unique name, but its face is definitely that of Holy Land Parion's Pope, Zazaris.

He probably lost his life during the greater demon's raid.

The knocked Wraith Lord seemed dumbfounded as it put its hand on its cheek, afterward it incited the Ghosts and Wraiths that were working beside the Lich to come at us.

"Nin nin~?"

Tama cut down the approaching Wraiths and Ghosts with her ninja katana clad in blue light.

『How's it going with the homu-homu?』

『I got no response.』

Arisa who was standing by behind the line called me through [Telephone].

『I see, then--』

Arisa stopped talking midway.

『Arisa?』

『--Ge geh. Master, the airship it's--』

"Nyu!"

While Arisa was finishing her line, Tama's ears stood up as she peerlessly demolished the enemy with acrobatic moves.

With the latest model of the Golden Armor, the helmet's ear ornament will move to match Tama's ears inside, it's really cute.

I checked on the movements of the dots in radar using Parallel Thinking, the large Saga Empire airship that was pursuing Demon Ships had just passed through the sky above the city.

I opened the map to see if the airship had some problems, but immediately after I did so, a huge tremor assaulted the underground hall along with a slight reaction from Crisis Perception.

The ceiling broke apart, Demon Ship's tip jumped out of it and went on to hit

the ground.

The splinters flying here from the cloud of dust were all kicked about by Tama who did it while uttering [Nin nin].

Looks like she's obliterated all the Ghosts and Wraiths already.

I turn around to face the invading Demon Ship, but there doesn't seem any need to deal with it.

As the Demon Ship disappeared into black mist, Hero Meiko showed up while holding a holy sword shaped like a Japanese katana.

It's different from the holy sword she wielded before, must be something she took from her Unique Skill [Unlimited Armory (Endless Swords)].

『Master! Are you all right? Hey, master!』

『Both me and Tama are fine. Are you okay yourself?』

『Oh good. We're fine over here. Or maybe we can get into the bath together later, and you can look if I'm hurt anywhere--』

I hung up the call while sighing since Arisa started to ramble on about dumb stuff.

My eyes met Hero Meiko then.

"Tch, it's you--I'll deal with you later!"

After finding me and cussing, Hero Meiko walked toward the door that led to the City Core room.

There, the Lich that had been ignoring all the quakes from the Demon Ship's crash was still fully focused on hitting the magical barrier.

I just noticed, the Wraith Lord--Pope Zazaris was gone, perhaps he was crushed by the Demon Ship.

Or perhaps he might have fled to the Realm of the Dead, but looking for him in this situation would be tough.

"Yuuki! I found the place you mentioned! Come here already!"

Hero Meiko took a rustic-looking comm magic tool shaped like a transceiver from her [Inventory] and shouted at it as she cleared away the dust and looked

down at the door on the floor.

"Meiko, are you guys looking for--"

"You're in the way."

When I was going to say City Core, Hero Meiko slashed at the crown of the Lich's head from outside her holy katana's reach without any warning.

"Nyu!"

I look at Hero Meiko while calming down the surprised Tama.

"What? Was that your prey?"

Hero Meiko snapped back and glared at me with a refreshed look on her face.

"No--"

"Then it's fine isn't it."

Hero Meiko ended the talk after interrupting me and then she turned her gaze at the place where she got down earlier.

"Seigi, don't get ahead of me, you! I'm the one that will take over the City Core!"

"I might just take it for myself if you're too slow."

"Michael! Carry me down."

"I'm Mieka."

"Ok ok, just make it quick!"

"That's not fair! Yuuki!"

Judging from the clatter, Hero Seigi and Hero Yuuki are coming, it seems.

With sounds of flapping wings, Hero Yuuki showed up, carried by a wingkin.

I thought this hero would look a bit more overbearing, but this hero's got a small build even for a middle schooler, the short hair suits this hero's gender-neutral face.

"Mask and purple hair? Don't tell me, you're the masked hero Nanashi?"

"Nice to meet you, Hero Yuuki."

I greeted as well as gave an affirmation to Hero Yuuki.

"Yuuki! Flying is not fair!"

While complaining, hero Seigi got here along with the companions I met at [Judicial Nation] Sheriffald.

"Geh, level 99? --Ah, Shiga Kingdom's hero huh."

Hero Seigi flinched for an instant when he saw me, but then he quickly guessed my affiliation from my title and breathed out a sigh of relief.

"Hey, Meiko! Don't leave your garbage on top of the door."

"Oh shut up. Just get your attendants to clean it up."

Hero Meiko snapped back at Hero Yuuki who looked down in disgust at the Lich that had been cut in two.

"Nyu!"

--Crisis Perception.

It's from the direction of Hero Meiko and Hero Yuuki.

"Get away!"

Tama's warning was promptly acted upon, Hero Meiko got away using Flickering Motion, and the wingkin who was carrying Hero Yuuki also moved away using Flickering Motion.

"Eh? What what?"

I got next to the slow-to-react Hero Seigi, and hurled him away to the direction of his attendants.

"Slime?"

"No. That's--"

Hero Meiko replied to Hero Yuuki who was looking at the place they were at from behind his attendant's wing.

"--A demon lord."

As if hero Meiko's words were a trigger, the slime-shaped demon lord turned back into its Lich form.

Even without using Miasma Sight, jet black aura is visibly wriggling around the Lich demon lord.

AR reading tells me that this Lich demon lord is level 61.

According to a document I read at the Sage's Tower, the more Unique Skills a demon lord has, the higher its initial level would be, a demon lords with three Unique Skills would have the initial level of 70 at the lowest, but looking at this demon lord, that information might not be reliable at all.

Either way, I'm sure there was no oracle that prophesied another demon lord's appearance in this land.

Well, even before that, no oracle was ever given about the greater demon's raid. Looks like Parion Holy Land is more hated by God Parion than I thought.

『Master!』

Arisa who was standing by above ground called through [Telephone].

『Mia said that the spirits scrambled away all at once!!』

『Yea, it's probably because a demon lord has just been born here.』

『Demon lord?! Then, we're heading there too.』

『Nah, you don't need to. This place is a bit cramped, it'd be hard for you and the girls to wield your powers here. Besides, those Saga Empire heroes are here with us, Tama and I will act as their support.』

The battle junkie hero, Meiko has the highest level at 63, the hero specialized in wide area attack magic, Hero Yuuki at level 62, and the scout-type hero, Seigi is a bit lower than the two at level 57.

The combination is a bit worrying, but with our and their attendants supports, it should be doable for these three to beat a level 61 demon lord that's specialized in close quarter combat.

『Got it! Looks like Liza-san and the dragons have defeated the Demon Ships too, we'll be standing by at the outskirts together ok.』

『Yea, if things gets out of the heroes' hands here, I'll call for your help.』

Well, Tama-sensei who's nearing level 80 should probably be able to handle it by herself though.

In my view, the demon lord clads both its fists in dark purple flames.

And then it continues to punch the floor like when it was still just an ordinary Lich.

"Oy, oy, like we're gonna let ya."

Hero Seigi who had relaxed himself complained.

His attendants warned him not to let his guard down, afterward he drew his holy sword and swung it around with a pouting face.

"Now's our chance, let's take it down--this is our prey, you hear me! You, don't meddle in, okay."

While she was talking, hero Meiko turned around to us and gave a warning.

"Meiko! This isn't the time to argue about that! It's looking bad!"

Hero Yuuki warned.

The Lich demon lord kept on punching the wall without attacking the heroes, but the problem was its strength.

Its fists were on a whole different level than before, they broke down the magic barrier in no time flat, and the last hit smashed the door along with the floor.

"Uwa, uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa"

Along with the door, the thick floor of the basement that ate the Demon Ship's crash earlier just fine broke down, and it began to fall into the underground cave where the City Core was as Hero Seigi screamed.

I carry Tama under my arm, and lift up hero Seigi who cannot fly along with his attendants using the magic-like psychokinesis, [Magic Hand].

Since Hero Yuuki is being carried by the wingkin attendant, and Hero Meiko is jumping from falling rocks to other falling rocks like it's an anime, I pay them no mind.

Arisa and the girls have retreated already, there should be no problem with them.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Guess I can't leave this alone, can I?"

Inside the City Core's room that's filled with blue light, the Lich demon lord is heading towards the City Core at a surprisingly quick gait.

AR reading tells me that the City Core is currently masterless, so the Lich demon lord would probably gain its ownership easily if it could get to it.

"I won't let youuuuuuuu!"

"Tch, shoulda gotten rid of it quick."

Hero Yuuki and Hero Meiko used Flickering Motion at full powers to try to stop it, but the Lich demon lord would probably get to it before them at this rate.

--Well, I'm faster than all of them though.

Using sight-based Unit Arrangement, I got next to the City Core.

『Welcome, o great king who rules over domains of higher order. Do you wish to register this land as a satellite city?』

"Yes, I do."

『Registration complete.』

I checked on the log, no new title in particular.

"AAAAAAA!"

"Not fair! Hero Nanashi!"

Hero Yuuki and Hero Seigi howled to see me seizing the City Core's ownership.

The Lich demon lord is still going straight here without caring about the fact that it was too late.

"You two! Focus on beating the demon lord first!"

Hero Meiko shouted while clad in blue light and slashed at the Lich demon lord from behind.

Unlike before, despite the practically nonexistent level difference between them, a single stroke from Hero Meiko's katana cut off the Lich demon lord's head.

And even though its head laid on the floor, the Lich demon lord's body keeps walking forward while blood is gushing out of its neck like a fountain.

I thought it was a weak demon lord, pretty tenacious.

"Just die already!"

Hero Meiko cut away both Lich demon lord's leg with a horizontal slash.

The Lich demon lord that has fallen onto the ground is now crawling on the ground toward the City Core.

"Ew gross... I don't care if it's Seigi or Meiko, do something about this disgusting thing already."

Hero Yuuki shouted out loud from a distant.

"I'll do it!"

Hero Seigi runs up to the crawling demon lord while almost falling himself.

Since the ground here is uneven, it seems he can't use Flickering Motion well.

"Here I goooooooooo!"

Using his running momentum, Hero Seigi clad in blue light jumps toward the Lich demon lord.

"--<Decapitate All Evil (Justice Prevails)>"

The sword that hero Seigi holds emits bright blue light by the power of his Unique Skill.

Ordinarily, you'd want to recite the holy verse first to draw out a holy sword's power, but it appears he forgot about it.

"Perish, demon loooooooooooooooooord!"

The holy sword is lodged deep to the half of the blade in the Lich demon lord's body, and then a moment later, a blue flame burns it down.

The Lich demon lord's body convulsed and raged violently, sending hero Seigi flying, but the holy sword stayed lodged in it until it disappeared into black mist.

"That was anti climatic."

Hero Meiko who had a fierce fight with a demon lord back then muttered while looking unconvinced.

--Weird."

The [God's Fragments] didn't show up even though the demon lord was killed.

More red dots showed up on my Radar. It's hard to distinguish the red dots, maybe because the surroundings have been painted red by the demon lord's blood. And since the floor is emitting blue lights, the dots and the blood get to look purple.

"What do you mean by weird--"

Hero Meiko picks up the Lich demon lord's legs and throw them into the blue flame.

"Meiko! Get back!"

Viscous liquid spouted out of the demon lord's legs that were in mid air, and turned back into Lich demon lords in an instant.

Oh right, it had [Infinite Regeneration (Rebirth)] and [Infinite Propagation (Division)].

Hero Meiko evaded the Lich demon lord's fist clad in [Unparalleled

Pulverization (Nothing that cannot be pulverized)] power with her [Unrivaled Mobility (Nothing can Hit)].

The Lich demon lord's fist tore the air apart, creating a tornado that smelled like ion as if it was wind magic.

"UWAAAAAAAAAAAA"

Hero Seigi who was swallowed up in the storm screamed as he rolled on the ground.

Hero Yuuki attendant who protected the hero was hit by a debris and looked like he was going to die, thus I put up a force magic barrier.

Looks like the Lich demon lord who had been ignoring the heroes up until now can't keep doing so after almost getting killed.

A huge fireball--[Blast Ball] fired by Hero Yuuki passed by Hero Meiko's side.

"Hey, that's dangerous!"

The Blast Ball that exploded far from Hero Meiko spread flames and heat

around, disheveling her hair.

"It's a support fire!"

The second Blast Ball was fired not at the Lich demon lord but at Hero Meiko.

The second Blast Ball hero Meiko evaded collided with the second Lich demon lord that showed up from within the flame, blasting it away to the other side of flame.

Apparently the second Blast Ball was aimed at the Lich demon lord that regenerated from its head.

"I don't need your help!"

Every time Hero Meiko slashed at the demon lord, a new demon lord appeared.

Though it seems it's getting weaker every time it regenerates and propagates, there's some level 50 demon lords mixed within them.

"Need a hand?"

"No! It's our prey!"

Hero Meiko immediately declined my proposition.

"Seigi! Do that again!"

"I can't! I can't use that for a while after using it once."

"You're useless!"

Hero Meiko keeps evading the Lich demon lord's attack even while quarrellings.

Looks like even she doesn't want to keep the enemy propagate more, she's refraining from attacking more.

Some of the regenerated demon lords are heading toward the City Core, so I along with Tama stand in their way and hurl them back toward the heroes.

The Lich demon lords that are still trying to get here are bound by Tama's Ninjutsu, [Shadow Stitch].

Hero Yuuki was saying something when the hero saw it, but I couldn't hear the hero over the sound from the intense battle.

『Master, the idiots riding the magic carpet are heading over there. Should Liza-san and the girls go fetch them?』

『No, I'll get Tama to take care of them.』

『Nyu?』

『Do you mind?』

『Aye aye sir~』

Tama jumps into the shadow connected to me with Ninjutsu.

I don't know what objective those temple officials that are riding on the magic carpet have in mind, but they'll only get in the way of the demon lord's subjugation so I'll have them go far away until it's over.

『So how is it going over there, master? You think the heroes could beat the demon lord?』

『Well, about that--』

I told Arisa the battle progress.

『So now Meiko is acting as an evasion shield against four demon lords huh.』

Arisa said that in amazement.

『Hey master, from how small of a part could this demon lord regenerate you think?』

『Who knows?』

Per Arisa's request, I tried cutting off the Lich demon's lord finger tip with space magic [<<Dimension Slasher>>].

『Looks like it can even regenerate from the size of a finger tip.』

"What are you doing! Are you trying to kill me?!"

Since hero Meiko was seriously livid, I isolated the fifth demon lord that sprung up because of my doing inside a transparent barrier of force magic.

As the demon lord is trying to break the barrier, I stack the barrier faster than it could destroy it.

Shock waves produced from magic capable of killing a demon lord is too great, thus I put my hand on the barrier that I had pulled close to me, and projected countless holy blades inside the multi layered barrier, disposing of the demon lord.

It'd be bad if the demon lord regenerated endlessly inside the barrier, so I tried to mimic Hero Seigi and burned down the finely chopped demon lord inside with a holy flame.

>[Holy Flame] Skill Acquired.

>Title [Holy Flame User] Acquired.

>Title [One who Destroys Evils] Acquired.

Whoa, a new skill in a long while.

"A d-demon lord, in an instant?"

"Just what's with this guy! I don't get it!"

"T-that must be a Unique Skill... Y-yes it must be!"

The heroes shouted out loud in perplexion when they saw me beating the demon lord.

I'd like to have a few words with hero Meiko, but since we're still in the heat of a fight, I keep watch over them without talking back.

『Hey, hey, Master? Meiko cut off the demon lord's head at the beginning didn't she?』

『Yes, it was quite a splatter-like scene.』

The blood gush is too much to even be recalled.

『You can create clones from, like, hair and blood, right?』

Arisa abruptly changed the subject.

--No, I get what she's trying to say.

『Then, like, can't the demon lord regenerate itself from its blood too?』

As if confirming Arisa's suspicion, the entire surface of my Radar is filled with red light.

Viscous liquids clad in dark purple lights rose up from the ground all at the same time and turned into innumerable Lich demon lords.

The majority of them are level 50, but it's just impossible for these three heroes to fight off more than 100 regenerating demon lords.

『Everyone, looks like it's about time for the Knights of Gold's turn.』

I called the girls with [Tactical Talk] while securing the heroes with [Magic Hand].

16-64. Holy Land Parion, Once Again (3)

Satou here. You usually find numerous bugs in a program you perfectly put together during the testing period. Rather, a program that doesn't exhibit any bugs during the testing usually hides a nasty bug inside.



"Uwaaaaaaa"

"What the heck is this thing. Why's it multiplying."

"--Tch. Yuuki! Blow them away with your magic."

"No wayyyy~~~"

The heroes are panicking to see the demon lords proliferating quickly to fill the room entirely.

Their attendants have started to chant some kind of spell, but they'd be swallowed in the tsunami-like swarm of the demon lords before they could finish for sure.

"Me-Meiko, do something about thiiiiiiis"

"Shut up, Yuuki. Fighting lots of foes is your forte."

"F-forget about that, we've gotta run--"

It might be a good idea to take these heroes away to a safe zone for now.

Since handing over the City Core to the demon lord would likely complicate things, I put up multi layered barrier around the Core and order it to defend

itself.

I dug out a tunnel vertically above me with earth magic [Free Mining], caught the heroes with [Magic Hands], and moved to the faintly visible sky above the sanctuary with sight-based Unit Arrangement.

"Ugyaaaaaaaaa"

"T-the sky? Why the sky?"

"W-where's the demon lords?"

Since Hero Yuuki's scream was getting too loud, I teleported us again to the demolished site of the sanctuary.

After a slight pause, an object that was a mix of ultramarine and dark colors clad in purple phosphorescence gushed out of the vertical tunnel I created as if it was breaking out.

It barely has any trace of its original form, but that's probably the swarm of Lich demon lords.

It's like an aggregation of sludge-like mucus and old rag down to the inside of its body.

Only 10 demon lords have come out above the ground.

The path seems to have been clogged up, the remaining demon lords are wriggling around in the tunnels and the City Core's room.

"Demon lord, dieeeeeeeeeeeeeee!"

Hero Meiko rushes up toward the demon lords while clad in blue light.

Fighting against 10 demon lords at the same time should be too much even for Hero Meiko and her perfect evasion-type Unique Skill.

--GWROROOOOOUNN!

I turned my sight at the direction of the black dragon Heiron's roar and saw Liza and the others circling in the sky.

I got close to the Lich demon lords with Ground Shrink, caught them with [Magic Hands] and then I threw them up into the air.

We're using this opportunity to go all out mainly to relieve the girls' stress and

carry out a field combat test, so having this many demon lords is just convenient.

"H-hey!"

"We will be helping ourselves with the excess."

After telling that to the protesting Hero Meiko, I threw all but one demon lords into the air.

The reason why I left only one is because I'm hoping the heroes defeating it would raise their Return Home flag.

"This one's our prey! Don't butt in, you hear me."

"I know, do your best."

With Ground Shrink, I took enough distance as to not get cut along with the demon lord.

--GWROROOOOOUNN!

The entire sky flashed, and several Lich demon lords were burned down into black mist by the Black Dragon Heiron's breath.

Pochi riding on the white dragon and Liza flying with her Powered Exoskeleton close in on the three demon lords who have withstood a direct hit of Heiron's breath.

The Infant Dragon that was flying together with them used its breath but it couldn't manage to beat even one demon lord, and cried out sorrowfully.

『TOU, nanodesu!』

Pochi's holy sword clashed with a demon lord's fist, blue colored glints of flash and purple sparks danced in the air.

『UORYAAAAAAAAAAA nanodesu!!』

Perhaps due to effect of [True Hero] title Dog Hero Pochi has, her clashing holy sword emits out a dazzling blue flash of light, burning the Lich demon lord's body.

Pochi's holy sword managed to bisect the demon lord, however it also didn't escape unharmed as the entire blade down to the base broke into pieces.

Liza evaded a Lich demon lord's fists and stabs its head with her dragon spear, then a whirling blue light unleashed from her finishing move blew away the upper half of the demon lord's body.

However, she couldn't dodge the innumerable feelers coming from the other demon lord as they passed by, the side of her Powered Exoskeleton's defensive barrier was pulverized, damaging the exoskeleton suit itself.

Even though these two have overwhelming advantages in levels, a demon lord's Unique Skills is still not something to underestimate at huh.

『Master, forgive me. The defensive barrier of Assault Mode has been breached.』

『Save the reporting for later, switch to the balanced Battle Mode or Defense Mode.』

『Acknowledged.』

After telling that to Liza, I turn my gaze at the demon lords that slipped out of their assault.

『Ey!』

With a cute yell, a blue laser-like shot from Lulu's accelerated cannon pierced

through one of the demon lords.

Judging from the caliber, it must be a holy shell from the big caliber accelerated cannon loaded in her Floating Fort.

『Ey! Ey!』

The next holy shell that Lulu shot blew away the upper half of another demon lord, however--

『Uhaa, they're tough even with such low levels, as expected of demon lords.』

『Yeah, it's unbelievable.』

The next target demon lord struck the holy shell with its fist clad in purple light.

Of course, the demon lord didn't come out unscathed resorting to such a reckless act of interception, the holy shell that got turned into spray by the fist ended up blowing away its upper half along with it.

"Now, Yuuki!"

"I got it!"

Wide area flame magic shot from the ground burn down the falling remains of the demon lords.

Hero Yuuki's fire magic did reduce the demon lords' health, but these demon lords appear to have high resistance against magic, it's not really effective.

『Arisa, if you would.』

『Okay!』

A blue flame that was unleashed seconds later erased the remains of demon lords that had begun to regenerate in mid-air.

It's [Blue Inferno] that once burned down greater demons in the battle at the Weasel Empire.

"『Blue Inferno』? If I just link myself with Michael, I also--"

Hero Yuuki sounded frustrated.

"Meiko! They're multiplying! The demon lords are multiplying, stop cutting off their limbs!!"

"Shut it, Seigi! How'd you expect me to beat them without slashing at them!"

"Stop fighting you two! Seigi, are your flame still not usable yet?"

"I'm telling you, I can't do it for a while! Can't you just use purification flame yourself!"

"Meiko would be roasted along if I use it!"

"Don't you have magic that can distinguish between friends and foes?"

"I don't do those kinds of half-assed magic!"

Turning around toward the quarreling heroes, scenes of Hero Meiko fighting against three newly spawned demon lords on top of a dark red ground unfolded before me.

Judging from the blood splat and pieces of meat lying around, there appears to be some kind of condition for this demon lord to proliferate, as it only does it when Hero Meiko cut off its limbs.

I've got a feeling that it's related to the miasma density.

Despite the demon lords rampaging around here, the miasma around the holy city is thin.

Perhaps--.

To confirm my suspicion, I tried to cut off a wrist and the right arm of one of the demon lord with Miasma Sight active.

"Waaa, idiot moron! What are you doing!"

"You, the purple hair over there! Do something about that new spawn yourself!"

The right arm that had fallen on the ground finished regenerating into a new demon lord before Hero Seigi, and Hero Yuuki could finish their complaints.

Sludge-like thing extends out of the cut wrist as it begins to regenerate, but the process is slower than the right arm.

--Just as I thought.

This demon lord consumes the surrounding miasma whenever it regenerates itself.

The reason why the regeneration rate differs depending on the cut limbs must be because of the difference in the amount of miasma contained within those parts.

And the reason why this demon lords aren't regenerating from the blood splat must be because it's lacking in miasma.

"Purify the surrounding miasma! The demon lord will stop multiplying if you do!!"

I shouted toward the priests and magicians who were among the heroes' troupe.

I forgot to use Hero Nanashi's tone, but well, no matter.

I gave the task to the hero's attendants since Hero Yuuki seemed bad at precise magic control.

As long as I'm around, my Spirit Light would dissipate the miasma, but there's no guarantee that I will always be around to protect them.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



『--Next』

Pressed by Mia who had finished summoning her artificial spirit, I threw the demon lords that regenerated from Hero Meiko's and my slashes toward her direction.

『Do it.』

A gigantic platinum colored wolf showed itself from beyond the wreckage.

That's an artificial spirit shaped like a great wolf born from Mia's spirit magic, [Mythology Eater Wolf].

Mia whose MP is almost twice as much as Arisa cannot summon it by herself, she needs the help of a Warship Wand loaded with a huge amount of Philosopher's Stones.

--FWOOOOOOOOOOOWN.

The great wolf let out a howl that was like a chilly wind reverberating in a

wintry mountain, and it exhaled a sparkling white breath toward the demon lords.

The demon lords that were bathed in the breath disappeared into black mist.

There were some who tried to oppose it with their fists and feelers clad in purple light, but they all vanished without the slightest bit of resistance.

Though it's probably only right given it's an anti-god magic, I never would have thought it would be this overwhelming.

"W-what is that thing?"

"New enemy? Is it a new enemy?"

"M-my sword shall cut down anything, no matter the opponent."

I don't blame the heroes and their attendants for getting shaken up.

Just like the other artificial spirits, this great wolf also requires an enormous amount of mana to maintain its form.

It ran out of mana provision before long and disappeared into white mist, scattering white crystal snow around.

『Vanishing right after it was summoned and unleashed its finishing move, just like the summons in Final Quest, don't you think.』

Arisa nonchalantly threw a reference to a hugely popular national game along with her commentary.

Adding more mana supply can be done by using a Warship Wand, but there's none that can continuously maintain the highly intensive [Mythology Eater Wolf], it's not that simple.

You'd end with a Warship Wand the size of a small island for it.

『Master, any enemy still remaining?』

『Yeah, there's still around 90 of them.』

『Uhaa, and all of them are around level 50? If we just cultivate this, I could get to level 80 before today's--』

Arisa stopped midway and began talking to someone else.

『--Yes yes, I'll be sure to tell him.』

『What's wrong, Arisa?』

『The miko-san that Tama saved was getting fussy, she told us to stop defiling the holy city at once~』

Far from defiling, the miasma in the holy city has never been thinner.

Though, even if the area around the sanctuary has turned into nothing but rubbles, as far as my eyes can see, around 40% of the buildings are still standing, they must be afraid that our fight and Hero Yuuki's attack magic would sink the holy city in flames.

In fact the flame magic Hero Yuuki shot out had turned one section of the holy city into ash.

I let them to duke it out since the site had turned into ruins anyway, but perhaps I should have brought them all into one of the sub-spaces I had instead.

『Got it. Let's change the battlefield.』



"<<DANCE>> Wind Stiletto!"

Seven stilettos flew off silver knight Air, aka Zena-san's, hands and danced in the air while playing clear refreshing sounds.

"<<WEAR>> Wind Stiletto!"

Stilettos clad in dazzling blue purifying wind tore up a demon lord.

Zena-san who's done reciting the Holy Verse begins to chant an advanced level wind spell.

"Watch out desuwa! Ze--"

The Lich demon lord clad in purple light is closing in on Zena-san while evading the swarm of stilettos coming at it.

『It's Silver Knight Air.』

"Yes, that desuwa!"

While receiving the assistance from [<<Intelligent Item>>] Raka she had equipped, Lady Karina puts herself between the demon lord and Zena-san.

Lady Karina attempts to block the purple light clad fist of the Lich demon lord by crossing her arms together.

『You must not! --Emergency Deployment, Phalanx!』

Raka who had judged that raw defense alone wouldn't be able to take on the punch deployed the defensive shields loaded in Lady Karina's silver armor.

The multi layered barrier fashioned like an umbrella that's as tough as Castle clashes with the Lich demon lord's fist.

The demon lord's fist that pulverizes everything gets pushed back by an explosion that occurs every time a defensive layer is destroyed through Phalanx spell art that works like a reactive armor.

The sludge-shaped feelers that extended out of the Lich demon lord's body assaulted Lady Karina on both sides, but she was already long gone.

The Lich demon lord looked around and caught sight of Lady Karina flying in

the air.

"<<WHISPER>> Holy Servant!"

Pieces of armor split out of Silver Knight Holy, aka Sera's, armor, turned into geometric objects and floated around her.

"<<PRAY>> Holy Servant!"

Blue colored light waves of purification shot out of the objects, pushed and wrapped around the demon lord.

"<<BESEECH>> Holy Servant!"

Black waves that came with the third holy verse physically smashed the demon lord.

I concocted these Holy Verses when my tension ran high after an all nighter session. The fact that the first two verses sound similar to the revival spell of a certain dungeon game is just an accident. I came up with the last one randomly. No regret.

The demon lord tore through the assault with its purple light clad fists and feelers, but it couldn't manage to smash all the waves at once, thus it's been stopped dead on its track.

While leaving the roles to the Objects, Sera has begun the chant for advanced level holy magic.

"Let's do this, Raka-san!"

『--Umu. <<SURGE>> Rending Force Armor!』

Silver Knight Kung-Fu, aka Lady Karina, who had run up high in the sky began to make her fall in a sharp jumping kick posture while being clad in a blinding light from the holy verse Raka recited.

『<<STARFALL>> Rending Force Armor!』

Lady Karina who wears dozens times the normal gravity through Gravity Control is accelerating to a meteoric speed.

"KARI--"

『It's Kung-Fu』

"KUNGFU DRILL KIIII---"

Lady Karina who couldn't finish shouting the full name of the technique since she corrected herself due to Raka's quip crashed into the demon lord's defensive barrier.

An intense clash between purple and blue lights happened only in an instant.

The demon lord's defensive barrier that had been whittled down by Zena-san and Sera's attacks couldn't endure Lady Karina's finishing move that had been reinforced with holy verses, and got broken into pieces.

Lady Karina who broke through the demon lord's upper right half pierced deep into the ground as dust and rocks flew everywhere from her momentum, sinking deep underground just like that.

That last error was just like her, but the power of that one strike is still quite something.

"Air!"

"Yes!"

Zena-san's [Wind Stiletto] lodged themselves into the demon lord who had lost the upper right half of its body, and then the stiletto lifted it up high into

the air.

"Tempest"

Right before Zena-san activated the delayed advanced wind magic spell, she recited the last holy verse.

Wind blew violently around the demon lord like a tempest, and then tracks of golden light manifested inside the wind and shut the demon lord inside the tempest.

The golden birdcage that once encased a greater demon couldn't seem to withstand the demon lord's fists and feelers clad in destructive powers, it looked like it was going to get wrenched open many times.

However, the dignified look on Zena-san's face isn't perturbed.

Because--.

"Divine Retribution!"

Sera cast a delayed spell, assaulting the demon lord.

The holy magic she cast was originally a ritual magic made possible to be cast by herself with the assistance of the geometric objects floating around Sera.

The demon lord is crumbling into ashen sand starting from tips, the tempest and birdcage help to accelerate the process.

--HWWWWWWOOOOOOOOMWN.

Purple light floods the outside of the tempest birdcage as the crumbling body of the demon lord crept out of it.

Normally, it should have been long dead by now, but the Unique Skill this demon lord has, [Unlimited Regeneration (Rebirth)] is resisting the spell.

"This isn't the time to preserve my stilettos--<<Fill"

"Hold it, Air."

Sera stopped Zena-san who was going to recite the last holy verse.

Before Sera could reply to Zena-san who looked at her asking for her reason, a shout gave her the answer she sought.

"KUNGFU DRILL UPPEEEEEEEEEEEEEER!"

Like a fighting game character, Lady Karina sprung up from right under the demon lord.

She punched the demon lord into heavens inside a blue whirlpool.

Lady Karina landed beautifully as the remaining vestiges of the demon lord disappeared into black mist.

Shupin pose that looks cute on Pochi looks somewhat cool on Lady Karina and her outstanding proportion.



『Looks like the Silver Team could defeat a weak demon lord by themselves now.』

『Yes, their fight was quite steady.』

Unfortunately, they didn't get the hero title.

『How's it going over there?』

『We beat every last one of them, but there were only 70. Less than the number Master mentioned at the beginning.』

I tilt my head in puzzlement to hear Arisa.

I checked on the sanctuary site just in case, but I couldn't find any demon lord that I forgot to bring into the sub-space.

『No worries if none escaped then. The exp they give isn't that good anyway.』

『Really?』

『Un, each only nets like 40% of a same level monster. Most didn't even net 10%. I think the more the demon lord regenerates itself the less it gives exp.』

Looks like we can't exploit the Unlimited Regeneration to level up easily.

『Master, my golden armor, purged powered exoskeleton, and spare great

shields have all been destroyed, so I apologize.』

I had equipped Nana with a defense oriented Powered Exoskeleton on top of her golden armor, but apparently, it was destroyed in the fight against multiple demon lords.

I had it furnished with a mechanic that could defend against even stuff like dragon fangs, but that apparently got broken through because the number was more than what I anticipated.

The battle was fiercer than I thought, even Ninja Tama had her golden armor damaged.

『There's no need to apologize. I mean Nana has accomplished her duty to protect everyone after all.』

It's more than enough for me if Nana came out without suffering serious injury.

『Yes, Master. I shall be sure to handle it better next time, so I declare.』

Just like with Nana, the powered exoskeletons still have room for improvement it seems.

『So, are those heroes still going at it?』

『Aah, seems like they drew the short end of the stick.』

I turned my gaze to look at the heroes who were fighting against a strongish demon lord.

16-65. Holy Land Parion, Once Again (4)

Satou here. I often found myself getting absorbed and lost in thought when I encountered something that piqued my interest. Usually it's no biggie, but it gives me many troubles if I do it when I'm with my friends or my loved one...



"This is kind of amazing."

Arisa muttered while watching the heroes.

Before her eyes, Hero Meiko is engaging the lich demon lord in a high speed battle while three rings of flames are flaring up around them as if encircling

them.

"Meiko! I'll burn down all the blood and pieces of meat! Keep slashing at it without worry!"

Hero Yuuki shouted at Hero Meiko.

"Gotcha!"

Hero Meiko replied curtly, but the corner of her mouth lifted up in glee as she switched from full-on dodging to attacking.

"Give it your all, Meiko! That's the real body of the split demon lords! My Unique Skill tells me that!"

Hero Seigi shouted out loud from outside the rings, but it didn't seem to reach Hero Meiko who kept slashing at the demon lord in ecstasy.

There's nothing that differentiate it in my AR reading, but Hero Seigi's Unique Skills, either the [Evil Search (Where's the bad one)] and [Justice Eye (There's only one truth)], must have seen through it.

In fact, the demon lord that's fighting Hero Meiko does move far quicker and fight more skilfully than the rest.

Hero Meiko herself is even better and faster than the demon lord though, thanks to the dodging skills assisted by her Unique Skill, and her battle sense.

"Yuuki-sama! Some pieces of meat flew off!"

"--Great Forge!"

Hero Yuuki's attendant discovered a piece of meat that was starting to transform into a sludge-like feeler while regenerating mid-air, responding to that, Hero Yuuki evaporated the meat piece with an advanced fire spell that would even melt magic metal.

"Yuuki! Some fell out behind the flame! Burn it down before it regenerates!"

"Tch, easy for you to say! --Great Forge!"

Hero Seigi who was emitting blue light pointed out a piece of meat behind the flame rings that had started to regenerate.

At a glance, Hero Seigi may look like he's not doing anything, but it appears that he's playing an important role in this demon lord subjugation as well.

However, at this rate, Hero Yuuki's mana would run out--.

--Oh? Hero Yuuki's mana hasn't decreased as much as I thought.

Checking with Mana Sight and AR readings, looks like Hero Yuuki's attendants are supplying their mana to the hero.

Attendants who have run out of mana cancel the link to Hero Yuuki and take mana recovery medicine, and once their mana has recovered enough they link back to the union, such is the routine.

"Hero girl is doing her best nodesu. Let's cheer for her together nodesuyo!"

"You can do it~"

Pochi and Tama cheer for Hero Meiko.

The innocent Lulu and Nana joined them too. Lulu has put away her gigantic Floating Fort in [Garage], Nana too has changed her broken golden armor.

"Sa--Nanashi-sama. Is it alright, should we not help them?"

Zena-san is looking at Hero Meiko and the others with a worried look.

Even for Hero Meiko and her perfect evasion-type Unique Skill, fighting one-on-one against a demon lord seems to be quite taxing, sometimes she dodges too far away consuming her stamina, other times she evades too narrowly, breaking parts of her armor.

She suffered small wounds whenever her armor got torn off, but Hero Seigi's attendants healed those wounds even without me giving a hand.

"It's okay, don't worry."

Right when I said that, Hero Meiko made a mistake and chopped off the demon lord's wrist.

"Meiko you dunce!"

"Seigi! Can't you use your flame yet?"

"I told you not yet!"

"Damn it--Great Forge!"

Hero Yuuki attempts to burn down the wrist with the conflagration, but apparently larger parts regenerate faster than the flame could burn them, it's gradually turning into a new demon lord.

"Uwaaa, what do we do."

"Shut up! Great Forge! Great Forge!"

"Yuuki! Stop your magic! I'll grind it down into a size that can't regenerate!"

Hero Meiko got away from the demon lord's main body, and unleashed a furious rapid assault at the regenerating wrist.

"I won't let you get to Meiko-sama!"

Hero Yuuki's wingkin attendant blocked the main body's way, but her shield and armor broke apart in a flash and she suffered wounds all over.

"She shouldn't have--. <<Dimension Pile>>."

"Shadow Stitch~?"

Arisa's space magic and Tama's ninjutsu stitched the demon lord's body in its place, stopping its fist as it was about to blow away the wingkin attendant's neck.

"O-oh thank god--I thought Michael was gonna die there."

"I would have never imagined Yuuki-sama to worry about me. Also, my name is Mieka."

The wingkin attendant came back flying outside the flame ring unsteadily, and Hero Yuuki hugged her, looking glad to see her safe.

Hero Yuuki muttered in a small voice, [Thank you], and the wingkin attendant gave her thanks to me and the golden knights.

After several more of such small events, Hero Meiko succeeded in literally slashing the demon lord down into nothingness before she ran out of energy.

"We did it! We beat it!"

"Something came out!"

Mixed among the black mist that came out of the demon lord's corpse, the usual dark purple light orb--[God's Fragment], showed up.

Even though it had three Unique Skills, only one [God's Fragment] showed up.

And it's acting differently than the usual fragments.

『.....』

Usually they would be grumbling about some wicked-sounding stuff here, but today, it only floated around anxiously before it began to silently ascend to heavens.

I don't plan to let it get away, but the people who should perform their role here, the heroes' attendants were quarreling about [whose attendant should seal it], so I gave them a warning, "It'll get away if you don't act soon."

That apparently would be bad, the attendants took their [Divine Talisman] from their bosom in a fluster and pointed them toward the God's Fragment.

""O Divine Talisman! 『Seal』 these evils away!""

The purple light was wrapped in blue light and got sucked into a Talisman the

wingkin attendant held that was double the size than the others.

Hero Meiko's attendant looked frustrated, but during Hero Meiko's fight against the demon lord, he was simply watching from the safest location without even healing her, so I think he's not really qualified to complain here.

"Hey, master."

Arisa pulled my sleeve and asked, "Did you see these heroes' titles?"

After looking at it as advised by Arisa, I got what she was trying to say.

None has gotten the [True Hero] title.

With the pattern so far, a hero who has defeated a demon lord should get [True Hero] title.

With Hero Hayato, right about now should be the time for lights to descend from heavens wrapping up the heroes, but there's no sign of that happening.

"Maybe the gods can't see what's going on here since we're inside Yuika's barrier."

Arisa reminded me of the barrier that the Little Oni (Goblin) Yuika, a reincarnated person, put up to prevent gods from peeking here.

--Ah."

Whoops.

There's no way the return offer would come if the gods didn't know these heroes had defeated a demon lord.

I brought everyone back to the sanctuary site while ruminating a way to apologize to the heroes.



"Why am I still here! Didn't you say that Parion would return me home if I beat a demon lord!"

Hero Meiko pressed on her attendant with a threatening attitude.

"I've got no 『True Hero』 title either."

"Sure missed our chance to power up."

Unlike Hero Meiko, Hero Seigi and Hero Yuuki didn't seem like they have any intention to go home at all.

"Hey, let me back! Let me go back to my home!"

Hero Meiko grabbed and pressed her head on the attendant's clothes.

Her sorrowful scream originated from my careless mistake stung my heart.

"Nyu~"

"Hero girl is crying nodesu."

"Cheer on~?"

"That's right nanodesu! Pochi will present her with Pochi's especially reserved whale jerky nodesuyo!"

"Oh, great~"

Tama and Pochi took their snacks, whale jerky, hidden in their golden armor,

they were going to cheerfully walk to Hero Meiko before Liza caught and lifted them under her arms.

"We can't~?"

"You can't."

"There's no kid who wouldn't cheer up after eating whale jerky nodesuyo?"

"There are kids where that does not apply too."

"Ga~n"

"Bummer nanodesu."

The two fell dejected and took on corpse poses after Liza admonished them.

"Master."

"Yeah--"

Urged by Arisa, I step toward Hero Meiko to tell her the truth and take the blame.

"Nyu?"

Tama who was enjoying playing as a corpse looked up with perked up ears.

"The sky feels weird nanodesu."

An unnatural dark cloud hangs over the holy city.

It's weird for such a thick dark cloud to appear in holy city that's practically in the desert area.

--ZRWEEEAITYTTTZH!

A howl that felt like a frost blade stabbing your soul resounded in the dark cloud hanging over the holy city.

And from inside that dark cloud, a wraith lord with a swelled up presence--
Pope Zazaris showed up.

Its body is clad in a flowing vestment made of what seemed to be an embodiment of darkness and resentment.

"That's the former pope right?"

I affirmed Arisa's question.

"How did he turn into a demon lord?"

Demon Lord Zazaris has two Unique Skills that the lich demon lord had, [Unparalleled Pulverization (Nothing that cannot be pulverized)] and [Unlimited Regeneration (Rebirth)], its level has also exponentially increased to 70.

"It's probably--"

I narrated my guess to Arisa.

Wraith Lord Zazaris probably took a group of lich demon lord with it to the Realm of the Dead when the lich demon lord greatly multiplied itself in the City Core Room, then Zazaris probably used [Life Drain] and [Soul Drain] to snatch their levels and exp, eventually it took the demon lord soul with [God's Fragments] into itself, transforming into a demon lord.

"Zazaris! First you did something foolish and lost Parion-sama's favor, now you even desecrate the holy city as a demon lord!"

The middle-aged Parion Temple Miko-san who had been ignored all this time censured demon lord Zazaris that was laughing loudly above the sanctuary.

"--Demon lord?"

Hero Meiko overheard the middle-aged miko and lifted up her tear stained face.

"Oh look, there's one here."

Hero Meiko looked up to the sky with a sickened look on her face.



"Demon loooooooooooooord!"

Hero Meiko bounced up toward the demon lord while creating footholds in the air.

It's probably Sky Step skill, not Sky Drive.

--ZRWEEEAITYTTTZH!

Hero Meiko easily dodged the rain of [Ice Javelin] that demon lord Zazaris poured down on her.

--ZRWEEEAITYTTTZH!

Demon lord Zazaris immediately switched to [Ice Storm], but Hero Meiko cut through it with her holy sword clad in her Unique Skill.

She's acting quite reckless, her body is covered in innumerable wounds, the Ice Storm is getting painted in red.

--Aqua Heal.

As an apology for earlier, I healed Hero Meiko's wounds with an extended range recovery spell, and supported her with [<<Enchant Spirit Protection>>], and [<<Enchant Physical>>].

--Amazing."

Hero Meiko let out a small voice of admiration at the physical enchantment that far exceeds the extra mode installed on Pochi's golden armor.

"I can do it now!"

Hero Meiko looked up straight at the demon lord and climbed up the sky at a speed that far exceeded hers before.

She cut up demon lord Zazaris that should have had the physical resist trait from its Wraith Lord days.

Chopped arm disappeared into black mist, and a new arm grew in its stead.

"Oy, Seigi. Did you see it?"

"Yea, I did. This guy ain't multiplying."

Hero Seigi and Hero Yuuki who suddenly get all pepped up support Hero Meiko from afar.

Hero Yuuki with fire magic, Hero Seigi shoots cover fire with a magic gun he snatched from his attendant.

"...■■■■ <<Sacred Turn Undead>>!"

Silver Knight Holy, aka Sera, unleashed holy magic on demon lord Zazaris, but it gave no real damage besides a miffed scream.

"We will burden the sin of Parion Temple ourselves. Tenion temple personal over there, please refrain from interfering."

The middle-aged miko who saw through Sera's magic to have originated from God Tenion gave a warning to Sera.

"Heroes! Keep that traitor that's turned into a demon lord in check just like that! We shall utilize this chance to seal the demon lord with the miracle brought upon by our artifact!"

The middle-aged miko and her companions took out a rainbow colored orb from Item Box and held it up high.

The main temple personnels who've come along with her put their hands on the orb and pour their mana into it.

I'll be watching over them, I'll leave them alone if they're going to help Hero Meiko and her friends, and expel them if they look like they're going to get in the way.

A light magic circle appeared in the center of their group, then it piles up into 20 circles.

"That's quite an unusual spell."

"Difficult."

Mia frowned and groaned.

"Master, did you get it?"

"I think it's a sealing-type spell based on holy magic--"

First I've seen this spell. Truly fascinating.

Magic circles of holy magic only have one symbol that signifies a god, but for some reason this magic circle the middle-aged miko and her cohorts have

created carry eight symbols that signify gods on them.

There's one symbol that looks unlike any of the seven pillar gods' symbols I know.

--ZRWEEEAITYTTTZH!

Demon lord Zazaris noticed the magic circle the miko produced and tried to get away into the Realm of the Dead, thus I got next to the opened portal with Flash Drive and destroyed it.

"This is our prey okay!"

"Yeah, I'm not going to take it from you, do your best."

I snatch away demon lord's mana with [Mana Drain], and destroy the buff magic it's put on itself using [Break Magic].

In addition, to prevent the demon lord from opening another portal to the Realm of the Dead, I fully opened my Spirit Light as well as purified all the miasma in the surroundings. Though I have no proof, these measures should be correct if the knowledge I got from the [Sage's Tower] is correct.

"Good work out there. You're as overprotective as always, master."

Ignoring the amazed-sounding Arisa, I watch over the battle.

"I wanted to fight more, I mean the demon lord came down and all."

"Shut it, Seigi. Just keep shooting!"

Hero Seigi's magic attacks were mostly resisted by the demon lord, but Hero Yuuki's magic attacks dealt enough damage even though they were also resisted.

"RUAAAAAAAAAAAAA!"

Hero Meiko kept up her fierce assault on demon lord Zazaris while furiously emitting blue light.

This demon lord doesn't seem to have battle sense of the former homonculus lich demon lord, it's getting pushed around by Hero Meiko even though it should be higher leveled.

Though apparently, she's still having a hard time to deal as much damage as she wants since she's up against a demon lord that has a naturally high resistance against physical attacks and of higher rank.

"Master, look at the magic circle!"

The rainbow orb the middle-aged miko was carrying floated and dispersed in the air.

Right after the orb dispersed, the magic circles stretched out toward the sky in a cylindrical shape, and once it was twice as high as the altitude where the demon lord was, it began to transform into a more precise sphere.

--Incredible.

A great number of spell formations complement each others, forming a powerful seal that cannot be easily undone.

It's quite an artistic spell.

Nothing to worry about since it's not complete yet, but once you're caught inside this seal, magic break-type of magic is useless against it. At least, my own magic won't work.

I memorize the sealing spell formations, thinking I might be able to create

something out of these.

"Good--get back, heroes! Otherwise, you will be caught up in an infinite prison where not even demon god could escape from!"

The middle-aged miko-san proudly shouted.

It is indeed a powerful sealing spell, but the [not even demon god could escape from] is exaggerated.

"This 『Rainbow Gem of Sealing God』 is an artifact from the age of gods bestowed to my grandfather, an apostle of Parion-sama, the Yellow Clothed Saint! We were not able to seal the demon lord that showed up in the holy city the other day because of Zazaris's intervention--"

The middle-aged miko began to explain about the rainbow orb even though no one asked her.

Or rather--.

"Yellow Clothed Saint?"

There's probably no mistake about it, it must be the yellow bodied demon-- the senior greater demon I defeated at the Duchy Capital.

And suddenly, this [Rainbow Gem of Sealing God] thing gets more suspicious manyfold.

"Shut up! This one's our prey! I'm not gonna hand it over to anyone!"

"Then, be sealed off along with the demon lord."

The middle-aged miko gave her last warning to Hero Meiko who refused to stop fighting the demon lord.

"Master, shouldn't we stop the sealing artifact, we've got to save Meiko--"

"Ah, yeah you're right."

I got too absorbed in memorizing the sealing spell formations, I forgot about it.

But it's okay. There's still a few seconds remaining before the sealing spell is completely activated.

I use space magic [Aport] to pull Hero Meiko along with demon lord Zazaris.

--Eh?"

The holy sword clad in Hero Meiko's Unique Skill [Strongest Katana (Nothing that cannot be cut)] cut down my [Aport].

--No no. This isn't the time to be surprised.

It's OK, I can still make it.

I moved next to Hero Meiko with Flash Drive and captured her abruptly--.

My reached out hand fell in empty air as if slipping through Hero Meiko's body.

It must be a technique that combined her Unique Skills [Unrivalled Mobility (Nothing can hit)], and [Foresight].

Nevertheless I managed to catch her on my third time's the charm, but that was when the sealing spell formations had been completed, thus we ended up getting sealed inside.

"Lemme go! I will defeat demon lord even if I have to go alone!"

"You're not alone."

"Seigi?"

"Geez, putting my life on the line for a friend is really not like me though."

Looks like Hero Seigi and Hero Yuuki had jumped in before the sealing spell was completely done.

They looked like they didn't get along well, but turned out they were friends enough to jump into dangers to save each others.

"Let's just beat the demon lord for now."

"Wait."

I put a hold on Hero Seigi's suggestion.

"If you defeat it here, the result might not reach God Parion, and the return offer might never come to you just like earlier."

"That's bad--wait, I couldn't go home earlier because of you?"

"Forgive me."

I resigned myself to Hero Meiko's denunciation.

"Hold it, Meiko. We should get out of here first."

Hero Seigi mediated in.

"Can't your Unique Skill cut it apart, Meiko?"

"I'll give it a try."

Hero Meiko slashed at the barrier with her blue light-clad holy sword, and one of the spell formation got cut in two.

However, the other spell formations around it worked together and repaired the hole in an instant.

"--Tch. Don't look down on hero youuuuuuuuuuu!"

Hero Meiko rapidly slashed at the spell formations while screaming her lungs out, but it's a perfect sealing barrier formations that flawlessly complements each other.

That [not even demon god could escape from] the middle-aged miko boasted might not have just been a mere bravado.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"So, you can get out of here, can't you?"

Hero Meiko glared at me while breathing heavily.

"I've tried several kinds of magic to break this seal, but simply breaking it resulted in the hole getting quickly restored, it's no good. Of course, teleportation is useless here either."

I can't get out of this sealing barrier with teleport magic or ninjutsu, even Arisa's familiar link has been severed.

"Are your [Inventory] and [Unlimited Armory (Endless Swords)] still usable?"

"I still can use them both--huh?"

Hero Meiko stopped talking while she was concentrating.

"My mana isn't recovering."

Now that she mentions it, my mana isn't recovering either.

Since we've been cut off from Sources, magic essence isn't getting replenished and we've got to make do with mana essence present in this place.

"I don't wanna starve in this place."

"You think I want that too."

"I shouldn't have helped if I knew it would come to this..."

"I never asked for your help."

"H-hey now! Meiko, and Yuuki too, stop fighting."

I observe the sealing barrier's spell formations next to the quarreling heroes.

"You look calm somehow, got any plan?"

"Yeah, probably."

This spell is absolutely unbreakable with magic or physical means.

I reach out to the heroes.

"--What?"

"Give me your hand."

I grip the heroes' hands.

Also, I extend out [Magic Hand] and catch demon lord Zazaris that's frantically trying to break the barrier wall in desperation.

--Unit Arrangement.



""MASTER!""

""SEIGI!""

""YUUKI-SAMA!""

Many voices call out to us.

We've moved outside the sealing barrier.

I figured it would be fine since Hero Meiko was able to use her Unique Skills, but that was quite a thrill.

Well, even if Unit Arrangement failed, I could probably get out with my mysterious trait that could break every kind of barrier.

"I-it cannot be! How could they get out of Saint-sama's seal!"

The middle-aged miko who had gotten all beat-up somehow shouted out when she saw us.

The heroes' attendants probably beat her up.

--<<Dimension Pile>>.

I stitched demon lord Zazaris that was trying to get away in the confusion.

"First of all, why don't we defeat the demon lord."

I proposed the idea and went on with the heroes to knock down the demon lord.

"--here it comes! You guys, no quarrellings now okay!"

Hero Seigi point at two dark purple lights--[God's Fragments] that came out of the demon lord's body.

『.....』

『.....』

Just like the fragment earlier, these two are also fluttering about in silence.

""O Divine Talisman! 『Seal』 these evils away!""

The two purple lights got wrapped up in blue lights and sucked in the double sized talismans Hero Seigi's and Hero Meiko's attendants carried with them.

When the demon lord's body disappeared into black mist, blue light falls down from the heavens into the heroes.

The same spectacle that unfolded after Hero Hayato's successful subjugation of a demon lord.

The heroes are probably meeting God Parion.

After a while, the blue lights disappeared.

"--I'm returning tomorrow she said."

Hero Meiko shed tears with a cheerful face.

She must have been really eager to go back home.

"I'm staying here. This world is a shitty game no different than earth, but at least it's more stimulating than my grey former world."

"Me too, I'm staying. It's easy to tell apart evils here, simpler to judge them too."

Hero Yuuki and Hero Seigi are staying it seems.

Hero Meiko walked up to me while wiping her tears.

"Thank you for your help. This makes your failure earlier a wash."

I exchanged a handshake with Hero Meiko.

"But you're really out of ordinary aren't you."

"I mean, guy's grabbed an incorporeal demon lord and tore it apart and all."

"With silly strength of magic to boot."

How rude.

"This native hero and dragon king over there are extraordinary themselves."

Pochi's and Liza's tails are wagging in elation at Hero Seigi's words.

Inside my shadow, Tama muttered, "nin nin" lonesomely.

Looks the heroes didn't even notice her because she was way too stealthy.



"Later then, Seigi, Yuuki. If you meet Fuu, tell him to bathe in the sun once in a while."

"Got it. Don't forget about my letter okay."

"I know. Yuuki, you sure you don't wanna send a letter?"

"Un, I'm sure. Nobody needs me in the original world anyway."

"Really. But I will remember you. Come back home if you feel like it, you hear me."

After the heroes have said their farewell, I walk up to Hero Meiko.

Along with Pochi who's had a connection with Hero Meiko.

I handed over a lump of pure gold and several bottles of elixirs stuffed inside a baseball bat bag, and exchanged a handshake with Hero Meiko.

"This is?"

"A gift for you. It should be useful in the world there, I think."

I've made it to look like a modern art outwardly, it should be okay even if she gets questioned by police.

Pochi presented Meiko with her treasured jerky set.

"See ya--"

Hero Meiko disappeared inside the blue light after whispering that in the end.

"...No...Parion-sama..."

Attentive Ears skill picked up something curious, so I looked at the direction it came from.

The middle-aged miko who was watching Hero Meiko's return from afar is groaning with both hands on the ground.

I didn't know what it was about at this time, I found out the significance when I visited her as Satou two days later.

"Parion Temple at the old capital of Saga Empire?"

"That's right. It's regrettable to say, but since the holy city's cathedral is in this state, having God Parion descend here would be blasphemous. Therefore, temporarily. Yes, temporarily for sure, Parion Temple of Saga Empire will perform the duty in place of Parion main temple."

The middle-aged miko spoke of the oracle she received as the blood vessels

on her head looked like they were about to burst.

I donated a sensible amount of money to the miko who had done a good job conveying the message, "Hope this help with the restoration."

"What's the matter Master? You've got this somewhat unsatisfied look on your face y'know."

I think the middle-aged miko received the message when Hero Meiko was leaving, but I didn't feel any kind of divine presence from the miko back then.

Well the volume of divinity was thick at the time of Hero Meiko leaving, I might have just missed it because of that.

"Nah, it's nothing."

"Alright then. But if you have any worries, Arisa-chan is here to hear you out--of course, she also warmly welcomes night crawling--"

I whacked Arisa on the head as she started to babble some ridiculous stuff, and then I changed the airship course toward Saga Empire.

16-66. To Saga Empire (1)

Satou here. In my father and grandfather's eras, when you're transferring job

apparently it's normal for your coworkers to see you off even to the Shinkansen station's platform. It kinda sounds fake, but if that happens in this day and age, people would be under a false impression that there was a celebrity or something.



"Oracle?"

"Un, Sete received the news straight from the mikos, he said."

Hikaru told me that when I got back to the Solitary Island Palace's living room.

As the airship was on course to Saga Empire, we went back to the solitary island palace to heal our fatigue from Holy Land Parion.

"Sete--ah, you mean the king. So what's the oracle about?"

"Demon lord will make an appearance in Saga Empire, it said."

Another one huh.

The oracle about demon lord I heard from the head miko at duchy capital back then was for one that would appear at the end after everything had been cleared, so this one is probably a wholly different case.

"Are there no oracles regarding Parion Holy Land?"

"Un, I tried asking them about it, they asked me back instead, 'what makes you ask that' they said."

Fumu, did the manifestation of homonculus demon lord came as a surprise for gods as well, or maybe other gods besides god Parion wouldn't impart their oracle because it happened in Parion Main Temple's site, a bit intriguing.

As Parion Holy Land's populace seemed to have incurred the displeasure of god Parion, didn't seem like god Parion imparted an oracle to them.

"Lemme take a glance there."

After saying that, I got to Saga Empire with Unit Arrangement, and went around updating Map info in every part of the empire.

No demon lord was caught on my Map as of now.

At the Saga Empire's old capital--the place where Parion Holy Land's miko told me to go, I found a homonculus who possessed Unique Skills.

It reeked of Canary in a Coal Mine-type of trap somewhat, therefore I simply put a marker on the homonculus without directly going to see it.

After I'm done with all the necessary checks, I make my way back to the Solitary Island Palace.



"How was it?"

"There's no demon lord present for the time being."

After reporting to Hikaru, I told her about the homonculus with Unique Skills.

The other girls are currently taking a bath it seems, I'll tell them later.

"Yep, I think it's a trap. The green greater demon often set up traps like that using its own Avatar."

My instinct got it right for once.

But, for some reason, the fact that it was right made me feel uneasy instead, that maybe it was actually the opposite.

"--Ah right. Ichirou-nii, could I ask you to do one other thing."

Hikaru made a request with an upward glance.

"Of course. What is it?"

"You see, Sete said that there's a sudden outbreak of cold in Seryuu City and the old Capital."

The old capital--It's Oyugock's Duchy capital.

"Should I make them cold medicine?"

Hikaru shook her head.

"It's not that. Could you check up to see if it's really an ordinary cold."

"Not an ordinary cold--you mean like influenza?"

"Un, I hope it wasn't that though."

"Gotcha, I'll look into it."

I arrived at Seryuu City with Unit Arrangement.

After updating Map info, I search for abnormal status on it.

There's no influenza. Despite an outbreak, only around 10% of the total population that has caught a cold.

--Hm?

Something's not right.

I search for abnormal status once again.

70% of the total population here are suffering from abnormal statuses.

They're suffering from physiological diseases unique to this world such as regretful syndrome, impatient syndrome, and rage syndrome.

As these diseases were unfamiliar to me, I looked them up and found out that these are peculiar diseases that are transmitted to people when their bodies are weak due to cold and such via certain undead like Banshee and Fury Ghosts.

Furthermore, every one of these diseases has been hidden like [Regretful Syndrome: Concealed], thus normal appraisal skill cannot be used to distinguish them, and so the locals are led to believe that the outbreak is just for an ordinary cold.

Or perhaps, there really was an outbreak of cold, and they were contracted to these diseases during that time.

These illnesses are not that serious though.

If you catch Regretful Syndrome, you'll be all fidgety and restless as you shut yourself in a room, Impatient Syndrome makes you constantly anxious and never be calm. With Rage Syndrome, you get to be irritated all the time, it makes you want to hit things around you.

Those contracted with these diseases will naturally recover fully in five to 10

days time once their condition has improved, there's no specific treatment for these.

I'm not sure whether advanced holy magic [Purification Virus] would have any effect on it, but it's customary to use mid class holy magic [Remove Disease] and water magic [Cure Disease] on those suffering from these diseases, and magic medicines like elixirs should be able to fully cure them.

I don't think I need to worry about this, but since the sources of infection are undead, I should inform Seryuu City's authority at least.

As I'm not too thrilled at the prospect of meeting Earl Seryuu, I'll ask his daughter, Miss Ouna, to deliver a message instead.

The fact that Miss Ouna is inside the room of her fiancé, Yukel-kun, Zena-san's little brother, is intriguing but as I don't think they'd do a premarital intercourse when the sun is still high in the sky, I let myself in after changing into Kuro.

"Yukel."

"O-ouna-sama, we can't! We're still--"

At the destination of my teleportation, a scene of Miss Ouna pushing down Yukel-kun was playing before me.

So passionate--no, wait.

"Come to your sense."

I use water magic [Cure Disease] on Miss Ouna.

She was suffering from Lusting Syndrome that originates from Succubus--the same kind of syndromes that come from undead.

"Who's there--Kuro-sama!"

"Yukel? W-what was I--"

Behind Yukel-kun who covered for her, Miss Ouna's flushed face turned pale.

I have Yukel-kun to take care of her and forcefully bring her sense back with mind magic [Calm Field] to calm her.

"Listen well--"

Once the anxiety in Miss Ouna's eyes had disappeared, I told her about the undead-borne diseases rampant in Seryuu City.

"I knew it, so it wasn't an ordinary cold."

Ouna muttered in frustration.

Looks like she noticed how unusual infection trend of the cold was.

Normally, infections would spread out from downtown where many living there had no resistance to disease, yet this infection spread out from inside the inner wall where many wealthy people lived.

"Thank you so much, Kuro-dono. Please leave the rest to us."

I gave an affirmation to the unusually eager Miss Ouna, and handed over 30 bottles of panaceas and elixirs each, to her, just in case.

I also dropped by Echigoya Firm's branch office, and delivered panaceas and perfumes that could stabilize mental state there.



"Satou, how was it?"

As everyone had finished with their bath and gathered here, Hikaru called me with my alias.

"It really wasn't a normal cold."

I told Hikaru and the girls about my experience.

Besides Seryuu City and the duchy capital, the diseases are also spreading in Muno city and Brighton city that I administer.

Symptoms are also appearing in the royal capital and the labyrinth city, though it hasn't spread yet in these cases.

Since Brighton City had some excess mana, I visited the City Core room and activated a ritual magic that seemed like it could help the citizens coping with the disease. It consumes a lot of mana relative to its effect that apparently only helps to relieve, but it's better than letting the mana overflow.

It might have been a coincidence if it only happened in Seryuu City, but when it's happening simultaneously in many places, high chance someone is acting secretly behind the scene here.

"--Hey, it's definitely that mastermind guy who's behind this."

"Yeah, I've considered that myself, but don't you think their objective here is too haphazard compared to the vampire transformation?"

I replied with that to Arisa's retort.

"Maybe he's leading us to think 『they won't do something that has no meaning.』"

Sounds plausible.

"Master, how about you inform them about that stuff you did in Brighton, and let other cities do it too?"

"Hold on, that may be precisely what our opponent wanted."

Hikaru objected.

"You mean, their goal is to waste City Cores' mana?"

"Un, a tactician of Furu Empire employed a similar tactic to conquer impregnable fort cities in the era of Orc Empire. It's not completely the same, but still really quiteS similar."

City Cores are capable of almost every feat imaginable, however, every one of these feats requires a huge amount of mana to execute.

It's very plausible that their goal is to make us waste mana, and decrease the things that could be done with City Cores.

"All right then. Let's relay these info to the king and leave all the decision making to him."

"You sure?"

"I'm sure. I mean, it's a king's duty to mull over this stuff."

Besides, the king and the prime minister will surely pick the optimal solution, better than me.

I also ask her to tell them that I'm open for consultation if they need a hand.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Satou-sama, the old capital of Saga Empire will come into view very soon at the airship."

"Got it. I'll go to the airship after I'm done changing."

I gave that reply to the brownie in pilot uniform, and went back to my room.

Five days have passed since then.

According to Hikaru, the king refrained from using City Cores' ritual magic, instead he opened up the royal treasury and distributed emergency rations and medicines to the poor, the goal was to increase their resistance to sickness.

The undead-borne diseases whose initial symptom starts with cold was not

restricted to Shiga Kingdom, it spread in the whole world.

It was obviously a man-made phenomenon, but the people behind it were quite cunning, only a few cities, including Eluett Duchy capital and Bishtal Duchy capital managed to deal with it before the diseases spread.

As for oracle about demon lord, there's nothing new past the initial one.

Through Hikaru, Emperor's sister Maryest, and princess Trimenus who were staying at the Royal Capital unofficially requested me to defeat the demon lord at Saga Empire. There was also a suggestion from Lady Ringrande at the duchy capital, she wanted to assist me in the demon lord's subjugation, but I politely declined her offer.

"Master, here's your ceremonial clothes."

"Thanks, Lulu."

I took the ceremonial clothes Lulu fetched from the dressing room.

"Allow me to help."

Arisa in maid uniform smoothly and naturally moved in and reached out to me.

"Lulu, take care of the coat's button please. I'll be here getting this belt out of the way--"

I whacked Arisa on the head as she attempted a sexual harassment while breathing roughly and drove her out of the room.

When did she get in anyway, sheesh.

"You too Lulu, don't worry about me, I can do this myself."

"Y-yes..."

Seeing her looking slightly disappointed, I'm getting a bit worried about Lulu's future.

After I'm done, I took several items out of Storage and equipped them.

After that little scuffle at Parion Holy Land where I got cut off from Source, I've prepared a vest installed with a portable Sacred Tree Stone Furnace that makes use of Crimson Coins.

I think my Storage would still be usable anyway, but since there are ways to

inhibit the usage of space magic and Item Box, I regard this as an insurance.

Of course, I've given this equipment to the girls too.

Liza was waiting outside when I went out to the corridor.

"Master, please allow me to accompany you in your war campaign against Saga Empire."

War campaign...

"I'm just going there to take on Parion's trial, I'm not fighting anyone you know."

"However, isn't the enemy who employed the proliferating demon lord the other day lying in wait over there?"

Yup, he's probably waiting for me there.

But that's precisely why I'm going there alone first.

"Am I still of no use to Master?"

She looks feeble, you would never imagine she's the same person who stands fast before her enemy with spear in hands.

"You've always been a huge help to me, Liza."

What came out of my mouth was apparently not what she wanted to hear, her gaze that was facing me turned down.

"Liza--"

I put my hand on Liza's chin and lift it up.

"--The reason why I asked you to stay behind is not because I don't rely on you."

In fact, she has proved herself capable of defeating even demon lords at the Phantasmal Labyrinth and Parion Holy Land.

The only foes the girls cannot handle right now are exceptional cases like the

great demon lords, say, Dog-head and Wild Boar King.

They could even deal damage to gods if they took them by surprise, as Arisa had demonstrated.

"I cannot predict what our opponent this time has in mind. I don't know what kind of tricks waiting for me there, so I'm counting on you Liza, and Arisa to guard my back."

Liza stares at me.

Looks like she's ascertaining whether I'm telling the truth or if it's just consolation words.

"Would you come to help me if I fell into a trap and got myself in trouble?"

"...Yes, Master, I will come to your aid even if it costs me this life!"

Liza hesitated for a bit before giving her consent with a powerful voice.



"Oh my? Liza-san, did something good happen?"

Arisa called out to us when Liza and I entered living room together.

"Yes, Arisa."

"--Eh? S-seriously?"

"Mwu."

Arisa and Mia look at each other, seemingly taken by surprise to hear Liza.

"Master."

I turn around toward Nana's voice.

Almost with a puff-like sfx, I was wrapped in softness.

"Aaa--!"

"Guilty!"

Watching the still expressionless Nana hugged me, Arisa and Mia protested loudly.

"What's the matter, Nana?"

"It's a good luck charm to pray for Master's safe return, so I inform."

"Really now, thank you."

Looks like I had put up a stern face that was unlike me, perhaps because of my serious talk with Liza.

"I'm praying too!"

"Same!"

"Tama too~"

"Pochi too wants to pray for safety nodesu!"

The youth troupe comes clinging on me one after another.

Rather than getting hugged, I feel like being a schoolyard climbing pole in an athletic meet.

""E-err, what's, happening here?""

Lulu and Zena-san who brought tea from the kitchen with them voiced out their surprise in unison.

I peeled off the clinging little girls, and tossed them on the sofa.

"Satou, I manage to finish Drone-kun No. 47, so here take it with you. I've had Mito-sama's help this time and put emphasize on its stealthiness and autonomous action."

"Satou-san, please take this holy water too. It's a specially made one I created together with head miko-sama at duchy capital."

I took the parting gifts from Princess Sistina and Sera who looked like they were competing.

"Master Satou. I brought 『Scapegoat Dolls』 from main core to you."

Core Two handed over several cursed-looking dolls.

This main core she mentioned is the Dungeon Core of Phantasmal Labyrinth where I preside over as Dungeon Master.

These [Scapegoat Dolls] aren't like the item often seen in games that would [void death], but it's a high level body-double item whose functionality is similar to [Physical Mirror Image] installed on Pochi's golden armor.

It's not like I absolutely need it, but they're disposable items anyway, so I requested some thinking they might come in handy.

"Thanks to the Evil Philosophy, we've got an abundant of soul points and miasma points, so please don't hesitate to ask if master needs anything, said main core."

"Thank you, Core Two."

I gave the Evil Philosophy to Phantasmal Labyrinth's Dungeon Core intending it to be a miasma supply as I didn't have any other use for it anyway.

The fact that it supplied soul points on top of miasma points is a fortunate miscalculation.

""Masitaa""

Nana's followers, the wingkin little girls, Shiro and Crow came flying in while flapping their wings.

--Pipirurururu.

--Chuii.

Princess Doris's pet, the godbird Hisui also came flying in along with Shiro and Crow.

The sage mouse, Chuu Fat is riding on her back, adorned with a crown on his head complete with a red robe.

Looks like everyone is coming to see me off.

"It's like you're a main character in the final episode or something."

I turned to the direction of the voice, and saw the former depressed demon lord who's also a reincarnated person, Shizuka, resting on a door next to the kitchen door.

"Mito told me about it, you're dealing with demon lords again right? I'll be staying here in the meantime, feel free to call if you need me."

Looks like she came here from the sub-space she shut herself in to perform her role in separating [God's Fragment] from demon lords.

"Thanks, that will really help."

"Please, no need for that. I've been sponging off you after all, think of it as me paying back my debt."

Shizuka turned away without a blush on her cheek.

She's not covering for embarrassment, looks like she truly thinks that.

"Well then, I'm off."

"If it gets dangerous, contact me immediately through the Familiar~ Line okay?"

"I will definitely come for you together with Arisa-chan and the girls!"

Arisa and Zena-san cheerfully declared such.

"O-Of course, I and Raka-san will also rush into action when that happens."

『Umu, I shall endeavor my best.』

Late to the party, Lady Karina and Raka-san asserted.

I head for the gate that connects to the airship while responding to the girls who are saying their farewells.

Hikaru has gone to the royal castle to report to the king, she's not here.

The former sword demon lord, the fox girl is doing well at her own pace today as well, she's currently playing with Heiron in the sub-space.

"Master..."

"I'm off."

"--Yes."

I said so to the worried-looking Liza and opened the gate.

"Satou-sama, it's terrible!"

"Ichirou-nii! This is bad!"

From the airship's gate that I just opened, and the royal capital's Echigoya firm mansion's gate, the brownie in pilot uniform and Hikaru rushed out with grave expressions.

I feel like I've seen this pattern before.

They're not going to tell me that Saga Empire has collapsed now, are they?

16-67. To Saga Empire (2)

Satou here. I remember reading the line [International General Practice is to never make a deal with terrorists] from a manga.

Fortunately, I have never been in such a situation, but even if I find myself in one, I'm confident that I won't take the optimal action. I'd love to throw all the responsibility to the bigwigs running the country.



"A demon lord has shown up at Saga Empire's capital!"

"Saga Empire's old capital has been totally engulfed in flames!"

Hikaru and the pilot-uniformed brownie both shouted together.

My fear that [Saga Empire has collapsed] was unfounded, but this is still quite a situation we have here.

"A demon lord and fires in an entire city huh--"

The mastermind probably has initiated their schemes.

"Master, let us take care of the demon lord! We're gonna tear through this super obvious decoy!"

"Satou, I'm going with Arisa and the girls this time. I've asked Ten-chan to protect the royal capital."

Indeed, saving a whole city that has been submerged in flames, and people suffering from burn is more suited for my magic.

The silver members are going to stand by at Solitary Island Palace as a reserve force.

It may be too soon for them to fight a demon lord, but they should be more than a match against a lone greater demon.

"I got it. Take care of that side. Focus on defending if the enemy is tougher than you can handle. I'll rush to you at once."

Besides, Saga Empire has been fighting demon lords for generations, surely they have the personnel, equipment and stuff needed to deal with one.

Though I don't think they could beat a demon lord without a hero, but they should have more than enough facilities and shelters in cases of demon lord invasion.

We were going to immediately sortie out once we had decided on our policy.

"Please wait."

Princess Sistina called and stopped me.

"Our opponent has someone who was capable of teleporting Pochi from Seryuu City to Weasel Empire on their side. Perhaps their true objective is to send their main forces to Shiga Kingdom's royal capital and Muno Earldom after luring Satou and others to Saga Empire's capital and old capital?"

"That sounds likely yep. Master, how's plain-chan doing?"

"No problem with her at present."

The plain-faced reincarnated girl, and Tactician Touya has embarked on a journey from a provincial city where they manage an alchemy store to the central small country group.

At first I was wary of them trying to restart their scheme, but videos taken by monitoring drone golems showed the merry-looking plain-faced reincarnated girl gleefully making plans for their honeymoon as tactician Touya reluctantly gave his consent.

However, as the plain-faced reincarnated girl could instantly go anywhere with her teleportation type Unique Skill, the fact that they're showing an act that would alert me like this may be an attempt to divert my attention away from the real thing. The princess and Hikaru seem to agree with my conjecture.

"Is that right... Then, this incident is truly the main event?"

"No, I don't think so."

Normally you'd think they're acting behind the scene to resurrect a demon lord, but if we consider the disposable multiplying demon lord we fought at Parion Holy Land, we can throw away that assumption.

After all, that demon lord was originally a homonculus--an artificially made organism.

There is a possibility of him being a reincarnated person despite being artificially created, but since I didn't sense anything that resembled a will of a reincarnated person from him, he was probably not one.

"Ah geez! Save the arguing for later! Let's deal with the problem first thing first! Tina-sama, please continue to consider all possibilities! Master, please take charge of 『Tactical Talk』. My range can't cover here and Saga Empire altogether."

"Got it."

I activated space magic [Tactical Talk], sent off Arisa and the girls who had changed into their golden armor to the imperial capital, and I myself went to the old capital with Unit Arrangement.

I secretly updated Map of the imperial capital to the latest info behind the girls' back and confirmed that the demon lord that appeared there wouldn't be an opponent Arisa, Hikaru and the girls could not handle.

Since Arisa is connected to me as a familiar, she should inform me if anything unexpected happened.



"These are quite the fires--"

Flames and black smokes are rising from houses to houses, you can't see all of

Saga Empire's old capital even from an airship at a high enough altitude.

My Map informs me that about 90% of the survivors has already taken refuge inside underground shelters in the city.

The remaining 10% above ground consist of knights, soldiers and those who were late to escape.

--That said, there are still hundreds of people who need saving.

There's no way I would make it in time by going around saving them with space magic here.

I considered making a copy of the entire city with [Another World] and took everyone into it like I did during the divine punishment at Weasel Empire, but if I do that, the arsonists in the city will also get taken inside along with the populace.

Though it's not without a bit of risk, I'll erase the flames with a fire extinguish magic intended for large scale fires.

"Mass Area <<Extinguish Fire>>--"

After activation of the advanced composite magic, flames that are consuming

the entirety of the old capital suddenly disappear, black smokes are also quickly vanishing.

As it's a magic that extinguish fire by taking oxygen away and lowering temperature, I took those whose lives were in danger--though some were already dying due to the fires--using teleport and Flash Drive, and heal them all with healing magic and magic potions.

--MWOLLLLUIUUUU.

A rolling flaming monster that looked like a tire jumped over debris and came attacking me.

"<<Shining Blade>>."

A slash of light reminiscence of Hero Hayato split the monster in two, right afterward, a Saga Empire knight in jet black armor showed up.

"You look suspicious--no, I remember that figure. I presume you are Shiga Kingdom's Hero Nanashi. I am--"

"Save the introduction, we should deal with the arsonists first."

"You are exactly right. I shall take my leave here."

I search my Map for arsonists after the sensible knight went away.

Most are [Fire Wheels] monsters like the one earlier, but there are big monsters, [Evil Salamanders] and [Flame Hydras] near the castle in the middle of the city and parion temple, and also lesser demons leading Fire Wheels in front of shelters.

I shot several volleys of [<<Multi Javelin>>] and [Remote Arrows] to annihilate all monsters except those that could be defeated by high level imperial knights and temple knights without them losing anyone.

"Phew, this side should be fine now I think?"

I checked on Arisa and the girls' condition with space magic [Clairvoyance].

This demon lord seems to be quite a handful, but they're fighting it off safely. Should be no problem leaving that side to Hikaru and the girls.

--Hm?

Light dots that signify Saga Empire's soldiers are rapidly disappearing.

I went there using sight-based Unit Arrangement.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"--<<Shining Blade>>."

"What are you doing!"

I blocked the sword skill a knight of Saga Empire unleashed on his own unit with force magic [<<Flexible Shield>>].

"Move out of the way! I have to carry out his majesty's command!"

I wondered whether Saga Emperor issued some stupid order for an instant, but AR readings told me that it wasn't the case.

"He's been Charmed huh--"

I promptly activate mind magic and light magic to undo the charm, releasing the knight from its effect.

Postponing the imperial knight's treatment, I heal other surviving knights with healing magic.

"W-what have I... I saw a nightmare--"

In the middle of his speech, the imperial knight witnessed the spectacle resulted from his action and let out a soul-crushing scream.

As he's being noisy, I knocked him out good with [Calm Field] and [Force Sleep].

Leaving that one alone, I open and check Map.

--It's happening elsewhere too.

I moved there with teleport magic.

As there were several imperial knights and temple knights who got charmed and made to slaughter others, I went around and released them in similar manners.

"Srsly, that's some mad skillz ya got there."

After releasing Charm from temple knights who were cutting up high ranking temple priests in Parion Temple's sanctuary, a small man who's hiding his face in a hood--the goblin demon lord showed himself up from behind a pillar.

"Another 『Avatar』 huh--"

"Well yea 'course. Like I'm gonna show my true self when I got no snowball chance in hell defeating you."

I probe for a mana thread on the avatar that should connect it to the main body.

"It's useless, this 『Avatar』 is an autonomous type--'s what they call, stand alone yeah."

I could only see his mouth, but I know he's making a triumphant face inside the hood.

The reason he went out of his way and showed up here--.

--A decoy to buy time huh."

"Correctomundo--Whoa there, ain't gonna let ya."

Under the goblin demon lord's feet--a shadow spreads out and covers the entire interior of the sanctuary that's full of holes.

"So report says you even got away from a God Sealing-class Barrier and all, but if ya flee here, I'mma turn everyone inside this shadow all gory and nice, capiche?"

"Hostages eh..."

"Yeap, now why dontcha show me the power of magic yer--"

Map Search--a hit.

I marked the area where I got the hit.

Activating space magic [Transport An Object] from my magic list.

"--so proud of... the heck did you do?!"

I ignore the shocked demon lord and strike the floor under my feet with my foot.

The jet black space turned back to its original colors.

Using ninjutsu, I just broke apart the shadow domain this demon lord had spread out.

"Like seriously, I'm no match 'fer ya... finding all humans hidden inside the shadow labyrinth in an instant and rescued 'em all just like that."

The demon lord muttered as if he wanted someone to hear him.

"Well, all preparations' done now tho'--"

The demon lord pointed beyond crumbling sanctuary's wall.

A dazzling light from one of the spires--.

--Tch."

As I clicked my tongue, I jumped to the spire with Flash Drive, knocked out a female-type homonculus holding a magic tool that let out the dazzling light and snatched it away from her.

According to AR readings, it's a bomb-type magic item called [Anti-personnel Magic Bomb] that makes use of lightning and fire gems.

More lights come into my vision one after another.

The other seven spires are emitting similar dazzling lights.

I went around all the spires using sight-based Unit Arrangement, knocked out the homonculi and swiped away their magic items.

--I won't make it.

I couldn't make it in time with the last one, and an explosion occurred at a spire.

I activate force magic [<<Flexible Shield>>] to block all fragments that were shot out of the explosion toward grounds.

--Weak?

Flexible Shields managed to block all the shot fragments that were weaker than I thought.

Though the homonculus who used the magic bomb died in a horrible splatter way and would likely show up in my dream, and roofs and interior of the spire had been pulverized into pieces by the shot fragments.

It's as brutal as a Claymore Mine for an anti-personnel weapon, but not something a demon lord would use as a trap.

"A fake huh--"

Checking on Map, the demon lord has moved to another place.

I swooped down before the demon lord with Flash Drive.

"Oh, yer' here early."

In front of the demon lord--or behind me, is one of shelters where old capital's people have taken refuge.

"Was just thinkin' of destroying this shelter's roof, and replenishing some miasma running short--"

--That must be a fake too.

While focusing on the demon lord's conduct, I use Parallel Thought skill and check on various things on Map.

Homonculi disguised as soldiers are heading toward shelters while carrying magic bombs inside knapsacks.

This one is probably a fake too, but I cannot disregard it.

I produce artificial spirits [Griffon Riders] with spirit magic--.

The moment Griffon Riders appeared from my magic, the goblin demon lord made his move.

He must be gunning for the window period before I could use another spell after activating a spell.

I instruct Griphon Riders to stop the homonculi from carrying out their terror acts, and jump into the shadow where the goblin demon lord disappeared into.

16-68. Saga Empire, Battle at the Imperial Capital (1)

※ This is not from Satou's point of view

"We popped up farther than I thought we would."

Arisa--Golden Knight Red muttered as she stared at a spire on Saga Empire's outer wall far away from where she was.

The other girls donning golden armor are right behind her.

Several airships are flying above the capital's sky enshrouded in massive dark clouds as they shoot bombardment down to the ground.

"It appears like the battle has already started."

Liza--Golden Knight Orange spoke as she gazed at dark smokes rising up from ground.

Today, what she has in her hand is not her favorite Magic Spear Douma Rev. but the highly destructive Dragon Spear Heiron.

"Ichi--Satou probably arranged it so we wouldn't run straight into battle right after arriving here."

Hikaru is taking part as Hero Nanashi.

Hero Nanashi's robe is made of orichalcum alloy thread and Great Monstrous Fish Tovkezeera's leather fiber cloth, the robe boasts a defensive power rivaling that of the solid golden knights' equipment.

"Nothing less to expect from Master."

Liza muttered proudly.

"Anyhow, I'm going to check up on the situation with 『Clairvoyance』 before we charge there."

"Don't forget to take the possibility of Counter into account just in case."

"Ah right. I mean I'll be looking up Saga Empire's capital that's in the midst of a battle against a demon lord after all, I'll get it ready."

Arisa raised her helmet's visor, and put mana into her earring.

Just by doing that, the magic circuit that blocks anti-detection Counter created by Satou is activated.

"OK, here I go."

Arisa brandished her Sun Gem-embedded wand and closed her eyes.

Arisa cast her spell, and when the magical light reached the Imperial Castle, a white light dyed the view.

At the same time, sparks flew off the mana-poured earring.

"--Owaa"

Arisa canceled her magic from the shock sent by the sparks.

"It's a Counter."

"Are you okay?"

"But of course! That sensation just now, it must be Resistive Barrier of the City Core. Arisa-chan's gonna teach 'em, her space magic isn't mushy enough to be beaten by a Counter of this level."

"Hold on."

Hikaru stopped Arisa who rolled up her sleeves and struck a pose.

"Since it's City Core's Resistive Barrier, most likely it's been set up to deal with the demon lord. They might mistake us for demon lord's helpers if we break it without thinking."

"Oh that's right..."

After pondering a bit, Arisa looks at the girls.

"Pochi, sorry, but could you fly and circle around the capital together with Lyuryu?"

"Yes nanodesu."

Pochi--Golden Knight Yellow nodded affirmatively.

The white sword hanging on her waist is a dragon fang sword created from the fang of lesser dragon Bouryuu through Primeval Magic.

"Lyuryu, let's go nodesuyo."

--LYURYURYUUU.

Pochi jumped like, pyon, onto the white dragon Lyuryu's back, and the dragon answered to her call cheerfully before soaring up.

『Don't get too close to the capital, you hear me.』

Arisa reminded Pochi through space magic [Tactical Talk].

『Roger nanodesu.』

"Roger nanodesu."

After a slight pause, Pochi's reply came through sounds and the channel.

"Tama going too~?"

"Right. Go sneak into the capital, and investigate the demon lord's location and whether there are other enemies besides it."

"Nin nin~"

Tama--Golden Knight Pink sinks into shadow as she strikes the ninja pose.

"Take out?"

Mia--Golden Knight Green asked while pulling out a Sun Gem-embedded wand.

"Let's not go with the Warship Wand since it's going to be an urban warfare."

"Arisa, should I get the Floating Fort out?"

Lulu--Golden Knight Black asked for confirmation while shouldering the portable accelerated cannon.

"Dimensional Gunboat is a no no, but I think Floating Fort should be fine, no? We can even use it to get to the city."

Lulu's personal Gunboat installed with the same kind of system as the Light Ship's sub-dimensional travel capability was not created for battles occurring on the planet's surface, but rather for eliminating the mysterious creatures inhabiting the void sky--the space.

It's not like it cannot operate on the planet's surface, but since it has been crammed to the brim with Satou's technologies with no punch pulled, it could possibly cause more damage than the [rampages of dragons and demon lords].

Unfortunately, there is no anti-god armaments on board of the combat vessel, so it's strictly for fighting against common creatures.

"As it is going to be an Urban Warfare, I shall not mount my Powered Exoskeleton myself. After all, it's unsuitable for grappling fights with ground opponents."

"That thing is like a Powered Suit too though, I think it should be usable on ground, but for someone with high fundamental prowess like Liza-san, I guess it feels more like a shackle."

While saying that, Arisa let floating shields for automatic defense and adjacent protection spheres to float around her.

"Arisa, should I also go with my usual equipment, so I ask."

Nana--Golden Knight White inquired with a mirror-polished great shield in her hand.

"Right--as long as the demon lord's level is lower than Hikaru-tan, go with just Castle. We're not fighting against gods anyway, you can save the newly installed <<Absolute Throne>> for when the things get tough."

"Not that, will Dimensional Shield be unnecessary?"

"Yup that too, it's kinda impractical on ground."

The warship that was built for similar purposes to Lulu's gunboat will cause massive collateral damage from the shockwave generated by its defensive mechanism if used on the planet's surface, thus Arisa denied its usage without a hint of hesitation.

『Pochi calling in nanodesu--』

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Light signal from the outer wall's spire--Captain! There's a dragon in the southern sky! A white dragon is incoming!"

"A dragon right after a demon lord? Damn those battle maniacs. Showing up on the battlefield at such hectic times..."

The captain of a warship carrier flying above the capital's sky cursed bitterly.

"Should we shoot it down?"

"Don't be a fool. Even if it's a lesser dragon, the firepower of a mere airship has no hope of shooting it down."

Against a lesser dragon, they might just be able to land a hit if they take the preemptive strike, but it will most likely result in them getting taken down by the wounded dragon in the end.

"Deploy the Wyvern Unit to attract the lesser dragon's attention! Lead it away from the capital."

"H-however, that means the Wyvern Unit will..."

"I know."

No wyverns could get away unharmed from being toyed around by a lesser dragon.

"--Bridge. Blue Tail Unit, we're goin'."

Voices of the Wyvern Unit on the flight deck could be heard through the speaking tube.

"No way we're gonna let the capital get razed to the ground by dragon's flame 'rite?"

"...Forgive me."

The captain ground his teeth as he gave a reply to the Wyvern Unit who

willingly volunteered in a suicide mission.

Four Wyverns took off the flight deck.

"The demon lord on ground has made a move! It has started discharging monsters that look like giant bats!"

"Discharging bats? Isn't that like those 『Vampires』 bunch in the Bloodsucking Labyrinth..."

"Captain, perhaps this one is a vampire demon lord?"

"We cannot jump to conclusions just from this little info. How's the appraisal progressing?"

"It's still getting obstructed by the black mist wrapping the demon lord's body even now."

The warship captain and his crew glare at a humanoid demon lord that has encamped itself on the imperial castle.

The Wyvern Unit that flew out of the airship carrier arrived near the outer wall that surrounds the capital.

"So that's the white dragon--"

The commander made a gesture to his unit, signaling them to make a formation toward the white dragon.

"--Golden metal around its neck? No! That's armor! Does this mean, that dragon is a dragon steed of a dragon rider!!"

The commander's surprised voice disappeared into the high altitude gust of wind.

『Pochi calling in nanodesu. There are armored persons riding on the back of meat-san flying lizards nanodesu.』

『That must be Wyvern Riders. Fighting them would be a bother, just ignore 'em Pochi.』

『Roger nanodesu. Lyuryu, speed up! nanodesu.』

The commanders and his subordinates have no way of knowing such a conversation took place for gods they are not.

--LYURYURYUUU.

The white dragon cried out from afar.

Every Wyvern of the Wyvern Riders stiffened up from fear.

However, the white dragon took a glance at the Wyvern Unit for an instant before it zoomed off toward the capital at several times its previous speed.

"--So fast."

Yearning and jealousy welled up from within the commander's mind along with a sense of relief.

『Should we go after it?』

His subordinate made that gesture.

"No way in hell we'll catch up--『Return to base』"

The commander gave the order with a gesture and turned his wyvern toward

the warship carrier.

As a result, they ended up clashing with the giant bats and saved the carrier from a crisis in the process.



"Nin nin~"

Golden Knight Pink showed up from within shadow on top of the capital's outer wall.

"So spacious~?"

Saga Empire's capital is overly too big for one girl to look around by herself.

It's several times the size of the already vast Shiga Kingdom's capital.

"Bun bun bun, bunshin no jutsu~?"

With fluttering pink mantles, several ninjas whose faces are hidden behind cat masks make their entrance, "nin nin."

"Split up and search around~?"

""Aye aye sir~""

The ninjas that have multiplied by way of ninjutsu go and get scattered about in the capital.

There is no one here who could quip this.

At the center of the capital, a main street expands out radially from the imperial castle.

One of the ninjas landed on top of a high-rise building overlooking the street.

The street itself is flooded with crowd of people and wagons full of luggage.

"Ouch, hey stop pushing!"

"Shut up, outta my way!"

"Mom, where are youuuu"

"Hurry up! The demon lord's coming for us!"

"Noo! I don't wanna get caught by demons and dragged to hellllll!"

The crowd is rushing toward the gate while screaming and yelling angrily.

"Panic~?"

The cat ninja had a troubled look on her face.

A child who was separated from their mother was pushed by adults and fell down inside the crowd.

Ordinarily, the child would have met a tragic fate there.

However, a ninja saw what happened.

"Nin nin~"

The child got swallowed up into shadow and appeared under the ninja's foot.

"This, where?"

"Rooftop~?"

The ninja tilted her head as she replied to the anxious child.

The ninja gave the child a piggy back and carried her around to look for her mother.

It might seem like a worthless miracle looking in the big picture, but similar spectacles are cropping up here and there in the capital.

Showing up inside a burning house, taking people who have fallen into despair out of the house--.

Protecting the escaping crowd, assisting soldiers who are about to get swallowed up by a swarm of Blood Stalkers--.

Even at the site of a bloody battle between black knights and Vampire Slaves, one ninja has been witnessed cheering for them with folding fans in her hands-
-.

They also rescued ladies captured by vampires in a certain mansion.

『Tama, how's the situation in the capital?』

『『『Exciting~?』』』

Though, there may be a tiny bit of problem with their reporting as a scout.



"E-exciting must mean that there are monsters on ground other than the demon lord."

"Nn, confirmed. Vampires."

Following after Tama and Pochi, Mia too has dispatched an artificial spirit to the capital for scouting purpose.

"Is the demon lord too?"

"Wait."

Mia concentrates on her artificial spirit, giving it an order.

"Mwuu, failed."

Mia makes an 'x' sign with her fingers in front of her face.

Looks like her artificial spirit got taken down when it tried to get close to the demon lord.

"Combining the info we got from Pochi, looks like our enemy only consists of swarms of giant bats split from the demon lord and vampire-type monsters overrunning the capital."

"Vampires are good at hiding, what's with their ability to transform into mist and animals, this will be difficult."

Hikaru who's well experienced in fighting against vampires groans with her hand on her chin.

"No worries. Now's your time to shine--Lulu onee-sama."

"Eh? Me?"

The big sister (Lulu) replied in bewilderment to her little sister (Arisa) who pointed her finger at the dark clouds hanging over the capital, urging her like, "Go get 'em."

16-69. Saga Empire, Battle at the Imperial Capital (2)

※ This is not from Satou's point of view as well

"--Err?"

The elder sister (Lulu) tilted her head in confusion at her little sister (Arisa) who pointed her finger with a snap at the imperial capital while saying, "Go get 'em."

"Like. Zubabaan!"

"Zubabaan?"

Lulu still couldn't really follow, but then she inferred Arisa was talking about bombardment and began to act on it.

"Activating combat assistance functionality, expanded vision."

『YES MY LADY, ACTIVATE, SYNCHRONIZED SENSOR』

Voice of the Floating Fort support system replied to her order, Lulu's vision got synchronized with the Floating Fort's expanded vision.

"Aim, retina transfer."

『AYE AYE MA'AM, EXECUTE, RETINA TRANSFER』

A reticle inside the vision overlaps with the target.

Figure of the demon lord that's taken position on top of a spire at the imperial castle's wall showed up in the center display.

Behind it, massive dark clouds are covering the imperial capital.



"Your imperial majesty, the castle's barrier won't hold up much longer at this rate. We have to get [Heroes' Attendants] in the castle to summon the heroes here as quickly as possible."

"It cannot be helped. Have them use the Divine Gift Talisman."

The new emperor reluctantly gave his consent at the prime minister's word.

"That Hero Meiko, absent at a time like this..."

"Those fools at Parion Holy Land are beyond help!"

The new emperor took a glance at the selfish ministers only for an instant without saying anything in particular.

""""Oh great god Parion. We offer you our prayers and lifespan to grant us the summoning of heroes""""

Attendants of Hero Seigi, Hero Yuuki and Hero Fuu held up Talismans while praying to god to summon heroes.

Although not as rarely as the summoning of heroes from other worlds, this particular summoning is rarely ever performed.

The reason is because the talismans given by god Parion would shave off the heroes' attendants lifespan doing this.

"Attendant of Hero Seigi, Moryu, prays in reverence."

"Attendant of Hero Yuuki, Rafe, prays in reverence."

"Attendant of Hero Fuu, Zomu, prays in reverence."

Blue light magic circles manifested around the three attendants.

""For a miracle that brings salvation to the world of men""

Blue lights rise up from the magic circles as the attendants who recited the holy verses got dyed in blue color.

"May the Embodiment of Justice, Hero Seigi come to our aid."

"May the Embodiment of Hope, Hero Yuuki come to our aid."

"May the Embodiment of Benevolence, Hero Fuu come to our aid."

Right as the attendants finished the holy verses, torrents of overflowing mana swept over the audience hall and the heroes showed up from within the lights.

Apparently, even the god who forsook Parion Holy Land of prophecy lent her power to the heroes.

"Huh, what's happening?"

"Audience hall? Did Rapahel call for me?"

"Geh, enforced summon?"

Hero Seigi, Hero Yuuki, and Hero Fuu looked around in surprise.

Unlike the other two heroes, Hero Fuu is wearing a distasteful-looking robe with a hood covering his head.

"Listen well, heroes! Right now an unprecedented crisis has befallen upon Saga Empire."

The emperor stood up from his throne, and swung the scepter connected to City Core to display the scene outside the castle.

"Is that, this castle?"

"Something's latching on it? What's that big thing?"

Hero Seigi and Hero Yuuki muttered.

Apparently, they cannot use their divine gift Appraisal skill through a display, they have no idea that it's showing a demon lord.

"That's a demon lord."

"D-demon lord?"

"Another one, aren't there way too many demon lords in this other world?!"

At the emperor's word, Hero Seigi and Hero Yuuki sounded surprised and amazed.

Hero Fuu who's been looking down since the beginning is chewing his nails while restlessly surveying the surroundings like some suspicious person.

"--Oh crap oh crap oh crap, this is bad. Why'd the Vampire General who should have been leading Vampire Knights turned into a demon lord. It doesn't make any sense. It's gotten out of my control too, and I can't call for help since the connection to Ramiko-san at the base got cut off... Oh crap, it's a dead end. Damn, damn, damn..."

His muttering never turned into sounds, and no one in the audience hall where the crisis of demon lord was looming paid any heed to Hero Fuu's strange demeanor.



At the same time, on the outskirts of Saga Empire--.

"Aiming complete. Fix."

『YES MY LADY. DIMENSION PILE, STAND BY』

The invisible dimensional pile fastened its long heavy main armament in the air along with the Floating Fort itself.

"Deploy Virtual Barrel."

『OK, VIRTUAL BARREL, SPREAD』

A 20 meter long gun barrel made of artificial substance created by force magic expands out of the main armament.

"Mana Overcharged Holy Shell, load."

『LOAD, AMMO』

With a loud thunk sound, a holy shell that has been overcharged with mana by Satou got loaded into the main armament.

"Accelerated magic circle, limit liftoff."

『AYE AYE MA'AM, BATTERY, FULL CHARGE』

The sacred tree stone furnace in the main floating fort fills the main armament with an enormous amount of mana.

『ACCELERATION, OVER DRIVE』

When it's done charging, a red light magic circle spreads out, parallel to the virtual gun barrel.

"Preparations complete! Arisa?"

"Get 'em!"

At Lulu who checked for the final confirmation, Arisa swung her arm down.

"Launch off!"

『IGNITION!』

As Lulu pulled the trigger, a flash of light dyed the surrounding in white, a light ball shining blue blasted into the head of demon lord that was sitting on top of the castle while leaving a beam-like trail behind.

That blue light ray made the atmosphere vibrate, burning brilliant blue lights under the dark clouds into the people's eyes.

Even the people who were scrambling to escape stopped in their tracks, some stopped the people next to them who were holding their arm, and looked up at the sky.

--VWZ.

When the demon lord sensed a danger, the holy shell had already blown its head away, vanishing into the capital's sky.

The holy shell didn't stop at just obliterating the demon lord's head, the shockwaves generated from it also blew away the dark clouds behind the demon lord, allowing sunlights to peek into the imperial capital.

Even the dark clouds that didn't get hit directly by the shockwave are moving away as if getting pushed aside by the sunlights.

--VZS.

--GWUGYZAAA.

--VZWS.

Blood Stalkers and Vampire Slaves that were bathed in sunlights instantly turned into ashes, while Vampires and Vampire Knights scampered off into shadows as their body were getting burned by the sunlights.

Bats and wolves familiars that were split from the demon lord's body turned into splashes of dark red blood the moment the demon lord's head went poof.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>

"Hit."

Mia who had dispatched Sylph to scout ahead again reported the collision.

"Yeay. How much damage did it make?"

"It has lost its head, I think that might have killed it."

Lulu replied to Hikaru who clapped her hands in elation.

"That was awesome. One-shotting a demon lord from somewhere far out view."

"Lulu is the world's best sniper, so I announce."

"Nn, good girl."

"Looks like we won't have our turn here."

All the girls besides Arisa praised Lulu who was unsure herself.

"What's wrong, Arisa-cchi?"

"U,uuun, it's nothing. I'd expect no less from my Onee-sama! Awe-Lulu!"

Arisa who got asked by Hikaru gave her thumb up to Lulu even while looking slightly restless.

Arisa's objective was actually for Lulu to blow away the dark clouds above the capital's sky, exterminating the weaker undeads and crippling the demon lord.

Arisa muttered, "All's well that ends well", while wiping off her nonexistent sweat.

Besides--.

『Pochi here nanodesu. The demon lord person's head turned into a goat's nanodesu!』

『Tama here~? After the blue faced person went aplomp, soldeers-san got weird~?』

Pochi and Tama reported on the revival of the demon lord and the remaining vampires' scheme.

As an addition for the sake of Tama's honor, the vampire that bit the soldier Tama witnessed had been previously defeated.

"So it really went and regenerated itself eh~"

"Demon lords are more tenacious than G, so Master said." <TLN: G=Gokiburi, roaches.>

Arisa reacted to something else next to Hikaru and Nana who lamented over the demon lord's revival.

"What's the meaning of this? The vampires in this world can only increase their numbers through ritual right?"

"Undead."

Mia gave the answer to Arisa's question in one word.

"What do you mean?"

"Maybe they turned the soldiers into undead with Soul Magic after killing them?"

"Ah, I see..."

Hikaru gave an explanation on Mia's word.

"Arisa, we should move out too, so I suggest."

"You're right. Everyone, grab on the Floating Fort."

While saying that, Arisa got onto the seat behind the Floating Fort's cockpit where Lulu resided.

Liza, Nana and Hikaru grabbed on handles situated on the Floating Fort's sides, and put their feet on the assist step.

Mia alone summoned Garuda and made it carry her on its arms.

『Tama, you know where the vampires are right?』

『Aye』

『Exterminate them』

『Aye aye sir~』

While traveling on the Floating Fort, Liza gave an order to Tama through space magic.

Almost at the same time, spectacles of vampires weakened by the sunlights getting killed off by ninjas that popped out of shadows, and of vampire knights getting chased off by multiple cat ninjas were witnessed in various locations at the capital.



"The demon lord's head got blown off?"

"What was that attack!"

"Was it a ritual magic performed by the imperial court mage division?"

"Not possible. The commander and vice commander of the court mage division are still missing--"

"It's dragons! That absurd amount of force could only come from the species that walks on the path of destruction, it must be a heavenly dragon's attack!"

"No, could it be a magic cannon used by Furu Empire at the climax of great war?"

"Nonsense! Where could such a weapon get deployed from?"

A crucible of confusion descended in the imperial castle's audience hall after they witnessed Lulu's shot blowing away the demon lord's head.

None of them appears to be aware that the attack that had bewildered them so much came not from a dragon nor a hero, but an attendant of a hero.

"Your imperial majesty, perhaps that was Shiga Kingdom's Hero Nanashi's doing?"

"That can't be... Are you telling me that was a feat done by the hands of man? Even the magic cannon of ancient Lalakie civilization didn't hold that much

power, did it?"

"However, it is said that Hero Nanashi even managed to eradicate the 『Golden Wild Boar King』 and the 『Dog-head Ancient King』 that were beyond men's powers."

"Father told me that Shiga Kingdom falsified that though?"

The new emperor and the prime minister exchanged words in whispers.

The [Immovable Sword] hanging in the previous emperor's bedroom flashed on the new emperor's mind. From his perspective, Hero Nanashi is someone that excels in assassinations, an insolent criminal that's hero in name only.

Hero Fuu got away from the people who were in uproar as they argued with each others.

"Fuu-han, Fuu-han--"

Someone with a peculiar accent talked to Hero Fuu who kept looking down.

16-70. Saga Empire, Battle at the Imperial Capital (3)

"Fuu-han, Fuu-han--"

Hero Fuu who was summoned to Saga Empire's audience hall by his attendant looked around for the source of a voice with a familiar tone calling his name.

"Fuu-han, everybody's gonna get suspicious of ya if ya keep fidgeting round and round like that."

Hero Fuu turned around when someone clapped his shoulder.

"--Eh?"

The one standing there was not a small man he expected to be, but a young man in chamberlain attires.

Appraisal skill given to Hero Fuu by god Parion informed him that this young man is a homonculus.

"Oh this thing, 's what they call messenger boy y'see."

The young man took a pocket watch out of his pocket breast while speaking in a voice that belied his face.

"--Japan made?"

"Yeap, an acquaintance of mine imported this from Weasel Empire, see."

The homonculus replied to Hero Fuu who noticed [MADE IN JAPAN] word engraved on the back of the pocket watch.

"In 10 minutes, right at 12 o'clock, the barrier will loosen up for an instant. Use that chance to ask Ramiko-han's help 'k."

The homonculus clapped Hero Fuu's shoulder as he walked passed by him toward his back.

"How did you know about Ramiko-san--"

The homonculus was nowhere to be seen when Hero Fuu turned around.

"The demon lord's head regenerated into a goat's!"

Shouts from people in the audience room reached Hero Fuu's ears as he looked around at the surroundings.

The demon lord's head that should have been lost by a shot from mysterious sniper has regenerated.

"Goat head, but isn't it a vampire? Sabbath? What does that mean?"

Flustered voice of Hero Seigi could be heard too.

Both the ministers and the heroes were thrown into confusion.

"Quiet down, Seigi. I'm gonna roast this demon lord up, come with me."

"Hold on, Yuuki, don't pull my hand. Aren't you gonna take Fuu too?"

"--Fuu? Nah, not that guy."

Hero Yuuki's words stabbed Fuu's heart.

Due to that, the continuation from Hero Yuuki , "That guy hardly ever attended the practice. He's gonna get hurt real bad if we take him with us" never reached his ears.

The future might take a different turn had Hero Fuu actually heard those words.



"Fetch everything! Anything to hold down the door!"

A knight in black armor shouted as he held down a huge door leading out of a chapel.

Around ten soldiers were holding down the door along with the black knight, their foots floated up whenever the door got knocked hard as they desperately held down the door.

Behind them, orphaned children from a joint establishment of the temple, and apprentice priestess who take care of these children are looking at them with terrified expressions.

"Parion-sama, please give your protection to these courageous knights--"

When an apprentice priestess girl offered her prayers to god, the other apprentices and orphans started to go along with her in desperation.

However, the world is ruthless.

The bulky door let out a creaking sound, and then a red eye peek from the crack.

The knights and some of the soldiers spat out curses, while the majority of people here screamed.

The mouth that was peeking from the door warped into a sneer.

The red eye disappeared from the crack, and right when everyone breathed a sigh of relief--.

BOOM--with a roaring sound, the bulky door got blown away along with the black knight and soldiers.

A Vampire Knight with hunched back showed up.

Its eyes looking for prey stare at the apprentice priestesses next to the orphan children one by one.

The Vampire Knight's tongue squirmed like that of a snake, its red eyes and split mouth formed crescent shapes.

The Vampire Knight slowly steps forward as if to fulfill its sadistic heart.

"You shall not pass! So long as I wear this Black Steel Armor granted by his majesty, my knees shall never yield before evil spirits!"

The black knight stood up, drew a sword hanging on its waist, and stepped forward to block the Vampire Knight.

His sword is clad in red light, the light produces another blade on top of the sword itself.

"--That's Magic Edge!"

One of the orphan kids shouted, hope dwelt in other kids' eyes.

"Here I come, you knave!"

The black knight rushed out toward the Vampire Knight at a speed belying his heavy armor and swung his sword with a great force while leaving trails of red light behind.

The orphan kids and soldiers cheered, a scene depicting the black knight's victory played in their eyes.

However, the world is ruthless--.

After a fierce clash, the one that fell down in pool of blood along with a thunderous sound was the black knight instead.

The Vampire Knight slowly stepped toward the black knight while sneering 'kisha kisha'.

"L-level 50?"

One of the apprentices with Appraisal skill noticed that fact.

Only heroes and select few transcendental beings reached this height, a domain reserved for heroes and devils.

No matter how capable Saga Empire's black knights are, they are still within the confine of the domain of men.

"I, won't, let you."

The black knight stood up.

Even after losing one of his arms, with blood all over his body, he keeps standing up to show his back on those whom he must protect.

Soldiers who saw the very model of a knight in him whipped their trembling legs and formed a meat wall in front of the people.

The Vampire Knight who was fighting bare handed before turned the nails on both its hands red, and stretched them out into ten blades.

The Vampire Knight licked one of the blades, smiling sadistically.

While sensing that this battle would be his last, the black knight produced magic edge on his sword.

--VWOUNPWEELE.

The Vampire Knight hazed out and showed up in front of the black knight.

The black knight managed to block the ten blades' assault twice before his sword broke on the third clash.

"My sword may break, but my knight heart shall never shatter. That's the creed of my family."

The Vampire Knight sneered 'kisha kisha' at the black knight's words that sounded more like a self-persuasion.

——VWOUNPWEELE。

The Vampire Knight roared.

——VWOUNPWEELE。

——VWOUNPWEELE。

Two roars echoed back, and two black shadows appeared from the entrance that had lost its door.

"You're shittin' me..."

"Why can't these reinforcement be on our side..."

The soldiers let out tearful voices and curses.

The black knight silently gripped his broken sword.

"--Hero-sama."

From whose mouth that word escaped out exactly.

Was it god's mercy that no one here noticed the irony that the Vampire Knights going after them were created by one of those heroes himself--.

The response to that were a tremor that shook the whole chapel up and

innumerable claws that pierced through the chapel's thick walls.

"Kisha?"

The Vampire Knight looked up at the passage window on the second floor of the now drafty chapel.

"TOU, nanodesu!"

A small shadow smashed through the window and landed in the chapel.

"Golden Knight Yellow makes her entrance, nanodesu!"

It was a small hero covered in golden armor striking the shupit pose.

—VWOUNPWEELE.

The Vampire Knight hazed out and drew closer to the golden knight.

A similar scene like the fight with the black knight earlier played out, but this

one had some differences.

The ten blades brandished by the Vampire Knight were broken into pieces by the white sword wielded by the golden knight, the blood breath that could melt even rocks couldn't even manage to burn her yellow mantle, dispersing into floor instead.

——VWOUNPWEELE。

——VWOUNPWEELE。

The remaining two Vampire Knights ignored the golden knight and rushed toward the civilians instead.

The black knight attempted to stand in their way, but he has no strength left in his arm and legs.

The soldiers went ahead to protect the black knight, but they were blown away by one swing of the Vampire Knight, rolling on the ground like barrels.

The Vampire Knight swung down a killing blow at the black knight.

""""KNIGHT-SAMA!""""

The apprentices closed their eyes, fearing the worst.

"Chicchicchi, nanodesu. You shall not carry out a honey nose act in the presence of Dog Hero -- nodesuyo."

The apprentice priestesses opened their eyes to hear that somewhat silly voice.

The golden knight was shaking her finger as she stood in front of the black knight, protecting him.

If her master was present here, he might have corrected her to use [heinous] instead of [honey nose], but no one in this place could afford such right now.

Additionally, the [Pochi] part after the 'Dog Hero' part was overwritten with an electronic buzz sound produced by the golden armor's support AI.

"Aah! You can't run away nanodesuyo!"

The Vampire Knights that had realized the disadvantageous situation they were in scrambled for chapel's entrance.

The golden knight caught up to them with Flickering Step, cut apart one of the Vampire Knight like zunbararin, and dealt with the the other one using her charge forward finisher.

The last one barely escaped her pursuit and went outside the chapel.

"You won't get away nodesu!"

The golden knight stopped her rushed for the entrance.

The Vampire Knight that should have run away went back into the chapel, looking frightened of something.

Its 'kisha kisha' laugh disappeared as it stared outside the chapel in fear.

——VWOUNPWEELE。

Blood overflowing out of the Vampire Knight's body turned into dark red armor, a lance and a knight shield of the same color materialized in its hands. The Vampire Knight had entered into maximum battle mode in a short amount of time.

A white blade sprouted of its back.

The lance and shield that had just been materialized fell down as liquid, the Vampire Knight itself disappeared into ash.

At the opposite side, a golden knight holding a dragon spear stood unassumingly.

"『Golden Knight Orange』 nanodesu!"

Golden Knight Yellow's careless remark got overwritten with a recorded audio provided by the golden knight's support AI.

"Yellow, let me ride on Lyuryu. We'll close in on the demon lord from the sky."

"Yes nanodesu. But, it'd be bad if we don't give medicines to the knight person first nanodesuyo?"

"No need to worry about that."

Golden Knight Orange turned her face toward the black knight.

A ninja wearing a cat mask that appeared out of nowhere was already treating the black knight and other injured people with gauze rolls on green ground.

"As expected of -- nanodesu."

"We should hurry."

"Roger nanodesu. Lyuryu, come on, nanodesu!"

The two golden knights that went out of the chapel got wrapped in huge hands covered in white scales and disappeared beyond.

The people who finally noticed their life had been saved uttered words of gratitudes and prayers.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Ain't it too big?"

Hero Yuuki who had got on one of the fortress towers murmured as he looked up at the goat-headed demon lord clinging on the castle walls.

Hero Seigi, four black knights and two casters are present next to him, acting as supports.

The attendants who summoned these heroes to the audience hall are not suited for battle, thus they're not here.

"It sure is.... Well, that demon lord at Holy Land Parion was huge too, but your magic will take care of it, right Yuuki."

"You say that like it's so easy."

In addition to Hero Yuuki's Unique Skills strengthening his magic, he also took a magic potion that boosts magic which his attendant, Michael aka Mieka forced on him.

"Inferno"

Fire magic advance spell that had been strengthened to double its power exploded on the demon lord.

Flames filled the castle, turning the beautiful gardens and luxurious interiors into ashes.

The heat that could even melt rocks carbonized the demon lord's body.

"Yippee! It's working! Yuuki, do that again, again!"

"That just now has a cooldown time, so I gotta wait."

"What, it's useless. You a single cartridge gun or something."

"I don't want to hear that from you specifically."

Hero Yuuki and Hero Seigi got into a quarrel despite the situation they were at.

"Hero-sama!"

One of the black knights that came with them as guards warned.

Looking up, the demon lord appeared to be inhaling greatly.

Not sure what it is, but the demon lord is clearly trying to attack back.

"Oh crap"

"You guys, run!"

Hero Seigi jumped off the tower using Flight Shoes, Hero Yuuki followed after him slightly later.

A moment later, a dark red breath enwrapped the tower they were on before it got blown away by the shockwaves, melting the remaining foundation.

"Geh, it's coming here. So fast!"

"W-within my calculation!"

"Then, what's your best bet?! Surely you got one!"

"I wouldn't be running away if I did!"

"You're useless!"

"I'm telling you, battling is outside of my specialty."

The demon lord went after the heroes while smashing apart castle walls, towers and other facilities inside the castle.

The fact that it couldn't catch up to the heroes due to the defensive ramps and walls seemed to make it quite irritated, it pulled out one of the towers, and hurled it at the heroes.

"Uwaa"

"Geh--Quick Burst."

Hero Yuuki used Explosion Magic instead of his specialty fire magic, blowing apart the incoming tower.

"Ouch ow ow, Yuuki you moron! You're making splinters flying here using explosion magic you're not good at!"

Seigi shouted and cursed as he got hit by small splinters.

"Shut up! Better than eating a flying tower in the face!"

The demon lord drew nearer behind Hero Yuuki as he snapped back.

"All right, Recast Time is over--Inferno"

With the second flame, the demon lord's arms got carbonized before crumbling down.

"We did it! You're awesome Yuuki--agh, it's regenerating! It went and regenerated!"

Seeing the arms that should have been carbonized returned to original form, Hero Seigi screamed.

"This is bad."

"I don't wanna hear it, but what is!"

Hero Seigi asked as they resumed their escape.

"Burned through 10% of my mana."

"A-and your magic potion?"

"With Michael."

"You idiot, why aren't you carrying them with you!"

Hero Seigi took a bag with magic potion inside from his Inventory.

"--Geh."

The heroes dodged in a hurry.

The demon lord's arm missed them by a hair's breadth.

"Uwawawawa"

Bottles of magic potions fell out of the opened bag, Hero Seigi frantically juggled the last one.

"What are you doing, Seigi!"

The last bottle that escaped out Hero Seigi's finger toward the ground was

snatched by Hero Yuuki from the side.

Right when he was going to open the bottle's lid, one of the splinters unluckily flew toward it breaking the earthenware bottle.

"You doofus!"

Hero Seigi booed at Hero Yuuki who stared at the broken bottle in disbelief.

"I don't wanna hear that from you Seigi!"

The two continued to flee even while quarrellings.

"Noo, it's over! It's catching up to uuuus~"

"If you've got time to talk, you've got time to beat it with you Unique Skill, Seigi."

"Can't do that while moving this much!"

Reached out arms of the demon lord approached the heroes in an attempt to seize them.

The heroes barely managed to dodge the fingertips by stopping them with magic, but they were gradually cornered.

Right when they were about to give up as the fingers were coming for them from both sides, the fingers abruptly got pulled backward.

The two looked back and saw the demon lord tripping on one of the towers.

They got out of this alive, saved by coincidental terrain.

"Sa-safe. Lady luck must be on my side."

"Luck? Then I'm gonna leave the rest to you, Lucky Boy."

Hero Yuuki speeded himself up with wind magic.

"Wha, that's unfair, Yuuki!"

Right above the complaining Hero Seigi, the demon lord flew over him with a long jump.

The demon lord ahead turned around and spread its arms wide as if to block Hero Seigi.

"It's all oveeeeeeeeeer"

Hero Seigi screamed out in despair.

The next moment, cloud of dust whirled up around the demon lord.

Glittering utility pole-sized spears rained down on the demon lord, stitching it on a nearby fort.

One figure descended down from the sky.

"Purple hair? --Is that Shiga Kingdom's Hero Nanashi?"

Hero Yuuki stopped running and looked up at the figure, Hero Seigi who just had a close call also looked up at his savior while catching his breath.

The figure--Hikaru restrained the demon lord on the ground with glittering lights.

She kicked the air and landed near the heroes.

"You all right? Boys--"

Dazzling lights wrapped the heroes.

"T-this is?"

"Buff magic?"

"I'm being generous here. It's a reward for you hard-working boys."

Right when the buff magic had done its magic, the demon lord broke apart its restraint and moved again.

"Weird, no? It's a vampire yet it didn't try to escape by turning into mist..."

"More importantly! That attack magic earlier! Shoot it, quick."

Hero Yuuki haughtily gave an order.

"Geez! Don't forget honorifics when you're talking to your elders."

"Forget about that! It's coming! The demon lord is coming!"

Hero Seigi pleaded frantically.

"I mean, I'm not that good at attack magic."

"Who cares, just do it!"

"Nn, it's okay."

"Uwaaaaaa, it's hereeee"

Hero Seigi ran away as fast as possible in the face of the castle-breaking incoming demon lord's intense force.

"It's okay. Look--"



"The other two heroes are fighting out there, and all you do is just trembling over here!"

Hero Fuu who had missed his chance to get away from the audience hall was being overbearingly reproached by a young nobleman who was supposed to be his attendant.

Other ministers who noticed that began to take part in verbally abusing Hero Fuu.

(Weren't you guys that called me here. I never asked you to bring me here.)

Hero Fuu could only look downward in silent, but he was rebutting them furiously in his mind.

"You failure of a hero!"

(And you guys are failure of attendants.)

"Even Hero Yamato who was called a failed hero managed to defeat [Golden Wild Boar King] and founded Shiga Kingdom, but look at you, you truly are a failure."

(Shut up, you useless ministers.)

"Are you frustrated, then fight!"

"It's useless. Like this coward has any backbone."

"You botched hero who can do nothing but hanging your head in silent!"

(So these are the people who have been summoning, no, kidnapping heroes for generations...)

The ministers and hero Fuu reciprocally derided each other.

--Fuu. Hero Fuu.

The voice of a child reached Hero Fuu's ears.

--Open the eyes of these depraved foolish children.

Only Hero Fuu could hear that voice.

(That's right, goddess-sama asked me. I'll drop down the hammer of justice on this kidnappers' country, I'll bring them back to their sense.)

While ignoring the increasingly verbal abuses thrown at him by the ministers, Hero Fuu made his resolve.

"Ok, ok, I'll do it, I just have to do it right!"

Pretending to snap, Hero Fuu activated Flight Shoes, and jumped out of the window timidly.

"Who do you think you are talking to with your tone!"

"You third-rate who can't even use Flight Shoes well!"

The ministers laughed at his figure.

The emperor who was focusing on gathering mana from the empire's satellite cities to the capital paid no heed to these trivial matters, forever losing his only chance to prevent a catastrophe from happening.

Hero Fuu who somehow managed to learn to use Flight Shoes got far away from the audience hall.

"I managed to get out of the hall. One minute. That's the remainder of your lives."

Hero Fuu muttered while smiling darkly.



"Lyuryu, over there nanodesu!"

—LYURYURYUUU.

The white dragon made a nose dive when it reached the sky above the demon

lord.

"We're going."

"Roger tha~t, nanodesu."

Two figures who leaped off the white dragon that was speeding like a cannon ball pierced through the demon lord.

——VWOUNPWEELE。

The demon lord screamed out unsightly.

——AZWOOOOOOOOWN。

A platinum beast rushed up from the horizon along with a gale and furiously bit off the demon lord, fiercely dragging it around and turning it into another wreckage in the castle.

The cloud of dust got swept away by the gale that enshrouded the platinum beast, revealing the figure of a divine beast.

The platinum wolf that made a short work of the demon lord suddenly thrust its fangs into the demon lord, and pulled a purple light--[God's Fragment] out of its body.

"Ooh, amazing."

Hikaru voiced her astonishment to see the platinum beast holding a [God's Fragment] in its mouth, whereas normal methods cannot even interfere with them.

Golden Knight Green--Mia who showed up riding the wind held up her small hand toward Hikaru and Hero Yuuki.

"V"

Apparently, that platinum beast was an artificial spirit Mia summoned.



"Arisa, done taking the civilians to safety, so I report."

"OK, well then, I'm closing the Teleport Gate."

Nana and Arisa had focused on helping civilians to take shelter while leaving all the flashy battles to other girls.

Lulu who's riding her Floating Fort drew near.

"Arisa, I've dealt with all the flying monsters."

"Thanks, Lulu-oneesama."

"Looks like Tama-chan has finished off all the small monsters the scout drones found all over the places."

"Nothing less to expect from Cat Ninja Tama."

Arisa and Lulu broke a smile without warning.

"--Ah."

In the distant, the demon lord fell down.

『V』

Mia's voice reached the two through [Tactical Talk].

——AZWOOOOOOOOWN.

"Looks like they've beat the demon lord."

They saw the platinum beast's victory howl.

『This minor revision for fighting demon lords, the Lesser Fenrir is pretty nice.』

『Nn, great.』

『And, how's the demon lord?』

『It doesn't seem to be reviving. The Dark Purple light got sealed off in a Talisman that Saga Empire's heroes carry with them.』

『Oh my, that was quite anti-climatic.』

Arisa who heard report from Hikaru murmured in whisper, "Thought it would

be a wee bit tougher when I heard it was a vampire demon lord."

"Starving~"

A Cat Ninja came out of shadow.

Not the split bodies wearing a cat mask, but the real one with the golden armor and all.

"Nyu~"

Sounds of an afternoon bell could be heard in the distance.

Looks like a Saga Empire's magic tool that acted as a time signal had rung.

"Nyu?"

Tama who was lazily flopping down stood up.

Her ears inside the golden helmet twitched, picking up small tremors shaking the ground.

"Arisa, it's time for the afternoon break, so I inform."

"Hmm right, let's just leave the remnant hunting to Saga Empire's folks--"

Arisa paused midway.

"Arisa?"

Nana knelt down and peered in on Arisa's face.

"Arisa, what's the matter, so I ask."

"Oh sorry sorry, master just contacted me through Familiar Link. He's having it hard over there too."

Arisa's smiling face suddenly froze by a sudden disastrous earthquake.

It appears that the crisis that befalls Saga Empire has just started.

16-71. Saga Empire, Satou's Battle

Satou here. In horror and mystery stories, often there are characters whose thought process you can never guess present. In most cases, there is a reason to these characters' actions, told in the story.

However, I think the real scary ones are those whose actions don't have any rhyme or reasons behind them.



"--Where is he?"

I arrived at a [Mapless Area] after pursuing the goblin demon lord into shadow.

I head to where he is by relying on the light dot displayed on the Radar.

That light dot suddenly disappeared.

I've put a marker on the demon lord, so he cannot escape me.

His marker info pertaining location displayed in my vision changed to one of the satellite cities of Saga Empire.

He must have sensed my chase and got out of the shadow space.

I broke out of the shadow space myself with that in mind.

Big blue open sky, with a sprawling town under my eyes--I'm currently on top of a steeple in the center of the town.

"There."

There's one building with a broken window.

I jump into one of the windows with Flash Drive.

"Oh yer' here already--"

The goblin demon lord that had wasted the room like some kind of burglar jumped out of another window at the opposite side.

I caught sight of the demon lord's long fluttering hair as he jumped out.

--Dark purple?

Did this demon lord who should have been bald grow hair, or did he put on a wig, I'm not sure.

He also didn't have the white coat he wore until just now.

What interrupted my fleeting thoughts was a red explosion outside the window and screams of people.

I jump out of the window.

The demon lord is shooting elementary and mid-rank fire magic all over the places as he jumps from roofs to roofs.

To stop this brutality, I shot at the demon lord with the light magic Laser.

The demon lord jumped down the roof, escaping in between buildings at the expense of his right arm.

He might be using evasion or crisis sensing-type of Unique Skill.

I use fire extinguish magic at a building that caught fire from the fire magic

the demon lord shot and grazed by the laser I shot.

I had weakened the laser's firepower to decrease collateral damage, but as it was a mid-rank magic, it still wasn't enough to prevent secondary damage.

After landing on the ground with Flash Drive, I chase after the demon lord who escaped behind buildings after buildings.

Apparently this demon lord possesses Ground Shrink skill himself, I can't catch up to him.

Moreover, he kept shooting out fire and explosion magic whenever he hid behind something.

The fact that he mixed in some delayed activation spells among those is really annoying.

After chasing him through two, three blocks all the while preventing damage, the demon lord fled into shadow once again.

--He's done with just setting fire?

I jumped into the shadow while having some doubts about the demon's lord action.

There were some small fires that I failed to extinguish, but I'd leave those to the locals to take care of.



"--What is this guy (demon lord) plotting?"

I arrived at another satellite city after passing through the shadow.

Chasing after the light dot shown in the radar, I discovered the demon lord who was destroying a water fountain while laughing maniacally.

In order to prevent him from escaping again, I use shadow magic the same way as sealing space magic to stop him running away into the shadow space.

The demon lord noticed me and ran away as if he was purposely letting his figure seen.

When I was about to give a chase, a block of wood rolling among the fountain debris caught my eyes.

--It's a barrel.

Scattered barrels that spread Vampire Mosquitoes around which brought upon the Vampire incident that destroyed Tokiswolk Kingdom flashed on my mind.

It's the same barrel.

I heard an explosion sound from afar.

Looks like the demon lord has started his destruction run again.

I isolated the debris of the destroyed fountain with space magic and sterilized it with fire magic.

These Vampire Mosquitoes eggs should turn into ashes after this much roasting.

The method is a bit rough, but I had to prioritize saving time here.

I went after the demon lord by tracing on the sounds of explosions.

Whenever I try to use teleport and pull-type space magic on him, he keeps getting away behind buildings using Ground Shrink during the slight window of time lag before activation of those magic. Sight-based Unit Arrangement is no different from Ground Shrink.

I would have never imagined that a Ground Shrink user who put everything into running away could be this troublesome.

The chase this time was easier than before since the demon lord was mainly using explosion magic and sound-only wind magic, thus there was no need for fire extinguishing and such.

Just like earlier, after chasing the demon lord through several blocks of the city, he escaped into the shadow once again.

That's right, he escaped.

I didn't think that he could leap over the blockage I put with shadow magic.

Since I saw him got clad in purple light when he was diving into the shadow, it must have been some kind of Unique Skill.



I continued to chase after the demon lord for another five cities and two towns.

Once, I tried to encircle the demon lord using ninjutsu clones, but he immediately ran into shadow after noticing it, thus I abandoned any similar attempt onward.

But still, how far does he intend to flee.

--No, wrong.

I noticed something odd.

Why would the Gob demon lord continue to run away when it's just an Avatar?

He could have just hopped onto another replaceable Avatar body if he wanted to, what would be the point of running away without doing so.

While chasing and preventing the demon lord's harassment-like attack magic in the 13th city, I'm racking my brain to guess his goal.

What has he done so far?

Set fire to stuff, destroyed a water fountain, attempted to spread the Vampire Mosquitoes around, destroyed buildings, and surprised the populace with sounds of explosions.

Aside from the Vampire Mosquitoes, none of the acts could be fatal to an entire city.

--It's weird.

He may be weak compared to Wild Boar King and Dog-Head, but he's still a level 99 class demon lord.

He could even submerge an entire city in flames like with the old capital if he had just used advanced-rank magic chantlessly.

I saw his long purple hair disappearing into a corner.

I went after it.

"There's another one over here!"

Black knights with magic edges at the ready rushed in after I turned around the corner.

I evaded their assault with rapid usage of Ground Shrink and got back to chasing the demon lord.

--Another one?

I see.

I didn't connect the dot since the only thing similar was the colors, but the reason why he wasted the room in that mansion in the beginning was because he was looking for clothing similar to Nanashi's.

It's actually not the same at all if you look closely, but it should be difficult for ordinary people to tell us apart when we're moving at super high speed.

But this method is too roundabout if his goal is to smear Nanashi's name.

He could have just dispatched homonculi in my attires to every cities, he didn't need to go out of his way and drag me along.

I'm growing more irritated at myself who can't figure out this demon lord's ploy.

I saw the demon lord looking here with a grin and sneer on his face for an instant.

While enduring the impulse to attack him with the fast-moving light magic, I used Ground Shrink.

The demon lord escaped into shadow once again when I was just one step away from him.

I dived into the shadow while getting irritated.

--Don't go after him.

I felt like I heard a faint youthful voice while I was entering the shadow.

--Trap.

And that was the continuation that I felt I heard, but I'm not really sure since it happened right when I was going inside the shadow.

It felt like something inside my mind rather than a voice.

『Arisa, did you call?』

『Unnya, I didn't say anything.』

I thought it was the Familiar Link, turned out not.

It can't be the always-connected space magic [Tactical Talk] either.

『Did something happen over there?』

『No well, I've just been pursuing the demon lord to cities after cities.』

『That sounds rough~ be sure to call us anytime if you need our help! I'm gonna send help with the Familiar Powah~』

I feel my accumulated irritation vanishing thanks to Arisa.

She's really the mood maker.

『Thank you, Arisa.』

I cut off the Familiar Link after saying that and went out of the shadow space.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Back to the starting point huh?"

The destination was the place where the demon lord first showed up, the old capital.

I look at Map.

The demon lord isn't inside the city.

--There he is.

He's in the [Hill of Heroes] located in the old capital's suburb.

This hill with a nice view is an ancient temple where god Parion's miracle, [Heroes Summoning], get performed.

--The magic circle is active?

The mana accumulated in a giant magic facility under the hill's ground is flowing into the magic circle laminated on the temple's ceilings and pillars, it feels like it's about to get started.

Of course it is--.

Inside the temple that was usually devoid of people besides the custodian, miko and priests of Parion Temple along with two blue dots that signify my acquaintances are present.

While feeling slightly impatient, I close in on the ancient temple where the demon lord is with Flash Drive.

There he is, Goblin Demon Lord.

"Good work out the~re."

His mouth that was peeking out of his white hood grinned repulsively.

The miko and priests are bound by chains made of dark purple lights, piled up on the floor, with the demon lord is sitting on top of them along with one blue light dot I discovered earlier--an attendant of hero, and a Parion Temple priestess, Loreiya, next to him.

She's also bound by dark purple chains like the other priests, the demon lord is restraining her from behind, with a dark bladed dagger thrust before her neck.

"Nanashi-sama!"

"Sorry for being cliched, but don't ya dare move a muscle if ya wanna see these hostages alive. No matter how out of the ordinary yer'are, killing these people before yer' ground shrink got here is easy peasy."

He's telling the truth.

That dagger is bad news.

It's giving off a more dangerous vibe than the demon lord himself.

I put markers on everyone with Map Search.

Same like how I did during the incident at the old capital, I use space magic <<Aport an Object>> to--it failed?

"It's the Unique Skill version of yer' Space Magic Sealing magic y'see. A goblin I am 's a weakling, but I got lotsa slots for Unique Skills, been real helpful."

The demon lord boasted.

The goblin demon lord living in Selbira Labryint's lowest layer, Yuika, had 13 Unique Skills, but I don't believe that it's a characteristic of goblins.

However, considering the many Unique Skills this guy has used thus far, the claim that he possesses as many Unique Skills as Yuika might not be necessarily a lie.

"What's your goal."

I examine the dagger thrust before Loreiya while talking.

--Dagger of Deicide.

I read the troublesome-sounding name and the remarks column while feeling a cold sweat down my spine.

It was made from a fragment of Dragon God's claw, a vicious dagger capable of even killing gods.

--Eh?

The name of its creator is--.

"Nanashi-sama! Please forget about us and kill the demon lord--"

"Shut up boobs."

Loreiya's shout turned into a painful scream.

The demon lord grabbed her breast and forcefully silenced her.

Loreiya meaningfully turned her line of sight toward the right interior for an instant.

I nodded back lightly to hide it from the demon lord.

There is another blue dot over there.

The other blue dot I found alongside Loreiya earlier, an attendant of Hero Hayato, The long earkin archer, Wiyaryi.

I peer at her while being careful as to not draw attention.

She's readying her bow while hiding in the shadow with some kind of stealth skill.

She's holding a longbow made of sapphire-like blue crystalline substance at the ready.

The arrow set on the longbow is clad in holy blue light--that's a holy weapon not unlike holy swords that was displayed in the Museum of Heroes.

When I'm getting ready to support Wiyaryi, the demon lord stops me just as I'm about to move a leg where my center of gravity is.

"Don't move 'k, I'mma seriously kill 'em if ya--"

An arrow of blue light pierced through the demon lord's head from diagonally behind.

Half of his head was blown away like it was sucked in.

"I did it!"

The long earkin girl that shot the blue arrow, Hero Hayato's attendant Wiyaryi let out a shout of joy.

The dark purple chains binding the priests are still persisting.

"Don't let your guard down!"

There's a high chance the demon lord is still alive.

"I got it!"

I got a reply immediately.

Wiyaryi began to prepare for the second shot while keeping her guard up.

In order to save the hostages, I went to the center of the temple with Ground Shrink where the demon lord and Loreiya are.

--Floating sensation.

I noticed that the Magic Essence in the surrounding area had disappeared when I reached out my [Magic Hands] toward the hostages.

It's the same as the Mana Neutralizing Space that got us good in the vertical passageway of the Phantasmal Labyrinth.

The mana inside my body is still intact, but whenever I attempt to use Sky Drive, the accumulated mana disappears.

I turn my gaze down.

There's a 40-meter underground space below.

Me aside, the other people here would die at this rate.

I let out seawater I had in my Storage into the underground space.

The facilities to summon heroes might break by doing this, but lives are at stake here.

We landed on water after falling about 10 meter down.

I put the seawater back into my Storage to lower the water level.

Something's weird on Radar Display, this underground space is apparently a whole other Map.

The demon lord's body disappeared into black mist inside the decreasing seawater.

Looks like his Avatar had come undone.

At the same time, the dark purple chains binding the priests also vanished.

Without minding her wet hair and clinging clothes, priestess Loreiya went to operate a control panel located in a small tower at the center of the underground space.

Looks like the Mana Neutralizing space has been lifted off, not sure when.

Since there were many that got hurt during the landing, I treated them with advanced-rank water magic. The priests take too long to chant their healing magic after all.

I used All Map Exploration just in case, but it appears there is neither a hidden door nor a hidden room in this space.

"Nanashi-sama, the summoning magic circle that was in the midst of activation has gone out of control! At this rate, it will continue to summon heroes from another world until the lives and mana of everyone in the old capital have been exhausted up!"

Is this what the demon lord had been scheming?

I ran to the control panel to prevent the worst-case scenario.

16-72. Intermission: The House-Sitting Team and Small Accidents in the World

※ This is not from Satou's point of view

"I can feel it, it's the presentiment of evils!"

The young noble girl China Kelten suddenly stood up and proclaimed so after the last lesson of the day at Childhood Academy, during the time for homecoming.

The wingkin sisters, Shiro and Crow, who are close to her look up at China.

"China, evils where?"

"Hold on, Shiro. China-sama only wanted to go out and play."

The amazed-looking Crow restrained Shiro who stood up with a sharp gaze.

"I wasn't going to play around! The town--right, I'm going out for the sake of

finding the great evil lurking in the town!"

Crow muttered in her mind, "She's just like Arisa-sama."

At China who made the announcement while gripping her fists, Crow gave her an applause.

Most evils get swiftly dealt with by their master's master, Satou, so there's no great evil left in Shiga Kingdom's Capital.

Only those that didn't caught Satou's attention like small-time villains and thugs remain.

"Now! Haste makes justice!"

After saying some incomprehensible thing, China walked toward the classroom's door.

Dragged by China, Shiro and Crow also left the Childhood Academy toward town.

The girls gave Servants of Duke Kelten, who were waiting for them to leave the academy like usual, the slip.

Although, there's no chance for the servants of a great noble house that holds a huge influence in the military to be that incompetent, these servants pretend to lose sight of the girls and let guards disguised as passerby to secretly watch over China and the girls.

"Achooo"

"--Bastard, get your filthy saliva off me!"

They found a man who was caught in someone else's sneeze trying to hit the other person.

"China, is that evil?"

"Hnnn--nope."

At Crow's question, China pondered for a bit before immediately made a cross mark with both her arms and walked away.

"Don't we ought to stop the quarrels?"

"There's no need. The guards or some adults nearby would do it. We're in a middle of the search for a great evil here."

There's little chance of them running into a great evil just by walking around the downtown, but China proclaims so in a very serious tone and pushes forward.

"Lots of people are on edge isn't it."

"Crow, lots are having a cold too."

Even in a street they just walked pass by, they already found so many people sneezing and people who got enraged over the most trivial matter.

"China, what's that?"

"It's a fortuneteller!"

China rushed toward the fortuneteller Shiro discovered.

"Read my fortune please!"

"Yes, young lady. Is it for romance?"

"No! I'm having a presentiment of evils. Tell me what's going on in the capital!"

"P-presentiment of evils?"

The fortuneteller was perplexed at first, but since oddball guests stopping by a fortuneteller stall located in the downtown is an everyday occurrence, he simply says "I shall read your fortune now" before starting.

Additionally, Crow properly paid the fee with a purse she got from China's servant.

"I sense evil in young lady's future."

"I knew it!"

China rejoiced to hear the result she was hoping to hear.

This fortuneteller definitely said it just because, but Crow won't point that out.

After all, they're enjoying strolling down the town by going along with China's

absurd goal.

"Where? Where's the evils at?"

"I didn't see that far. The clue would show itself before young lady if you just had the item of guidance with you."

"Item of guidance?"

The fortuneteller sent a meaningful look at the stall next door.

Lured by that, China also turned her sight at the stall.

It's a stall that deals with junk and antique.

"Oh my?"

China took a bell made of crystal in her hand.

It's a foreign-looking item that looks authentic.

"You've got good eyes there. That's an item called 『Bell of Justice』. It's gonna chime up when it sense a world crisis to tell its owner, you see."

The old stallkeeper who had found an easy target attempted to coax her.

"This bell is empty, I don't think it'll ring though?"

"...T-that's--Spirits! Yes the spirits will tell you. So it probably won't work if the owner isn't loved by spirits."

When Crow pointed it out, the old stallkeeper came up with something random after faltering.

"My, is that so?"

"N-no worries. Young lady has those clear beautiful eyes. I'm sure the spirits will lend their aid for young lady."

When the old stallkeeper saw China sorrowfully putting the bell back on the table, he reassured China with more random setting.

"Do you think so?"

"Un, China's eyes are pretty."

"Then I'll take this."

Shiro's innocent encouragement helped to seal the deal as China made the decision to buy the [Bell of Justice].

The old stallkeeper stops China who's going to take the item away without establishing the deal.

"H-hold it there! You haven't cough up the dough."

"Dough?"

"I'm talking about money."

The old stallkeeper showed three fingers toward China.

"Three?"

"30 sil--gold coins, yeah."

The old stallkeeper who was set on ripping the girls forcefully changed silver

to gold coins.

"I don't have any money with me. Shiro, Crow, do you?"

"I've got candy."

"I have three silver coins here, but not that much."

Crow shook her head while checking the purse.

"Then I don't mind exchanging this thing with the pendant you have there young lady."

"This one is off limit. It's an important object passed down in my family for generations."

China covered the pendant with her hands.

"Then you could just pawn it on the pawn shop over there."

"Pawn shop?"

"Yea, pawn shop."

To China who didn't get how Pawn Shops work, the old stallkeeper gave an explanation, "If you let them keep your pendant, they'll give you money and a pawn ticket. Use the money to buy the 『Bell of Justice』, later you give the pawn ticket to your family and get the pendant back."

"I got it."

"--Eeh. Are you sure, China-sama?"

"Of course."

Crow tried to stop China in a hurry, but she lost to China's momentum who energetically charged toward the pawn shop.

A few minutes later, China was holding the 『Bell of Justice』 while looking pleased as she walked down the street.

No one knows whether the three who managed to successfully rip off an easy target ended the note with a celebratory toast.

Just know that, after China and the girls left, one of the people who were watching over the girls went to check things up with the pawn shop.

<TLN: If you're reading this novel at any other site than Sousetsuka .com you might be reading an unedited, uncorrected version of the novel.>



"Waah, this is quite a feast."

The former idol Yui who was born in Southern Japan Federation clapped her hands in glee in front of an especially made steak in Echigoya Firm's staff canteen.

"Thanks for this, Aoi."

"Oh think nothing of it. I'm earning my keep as a researcher after all."

Aoi Haruka who hails from Great Japan Empire covers his mouth in embarrassment.

The girly boy who once would be mistaken 10 out of 10 times as a girl has grown taller in the past year, and looks definitely like a boy now.

"Bragging huh! Yeah yeah, I know I messed up and got made into a slave."

"H-hey darling, no one's saying that."

Yui soothes her fiance Souya who suddenly lost his cool.

Souya is an illegitimate child of Shiga Royalty who was coaxed by the adults to be the symbol in their conspiracy to overthrow the ruling party.

He was made into a crime slave after the coup d'etat failed, and even lost his sole identity as [King's Illegitimate Child].

He once led a lethargic life like an invalid, but thanks to the devotion of his fiancée who chose to be made into slave together with him rather than severing her ties with him and running away, he's been able to live a forward-looking life now.

"Sorry about it, Aoi. He's been on edge lately."

"I'm sorry, Yui. And you too Aoi, really my bad for losing my cool."

After getting rebuked by Yui, Souya lowered his head and apologized as if an

evil spirit was banished off him.

"Don't worry about it. Now that you mention it, the prof's been getting temperamental too lately."

Right after he said that, Aoi regretted not changing the subject.

"It's happening in the workshop too ssuyo. It's stumping Porina-san cuz many workers are quarreling with each others ssu."

"--Nell-san."

Turning at the source of the voice, there, Nell a life magician stood.

Judging from the food tray she's carrying, she must have caught on the interesting topic while looking for an empty seat.

"Even in the workshop? Come to think of it, after the cold outbreak the other day, I feel like there's more people getting irritated."

"Those quarrels broke out more often right after that ssuyo."

Yui and Nell's faces draw closer until their foreheads are about to bump.

"This might be some villain's scheme!"

"Oh no ssu!"

Nell went along with Yui's momentum.

The fun trio would have been formed were China of Kelten House here.

"No no, Yui-chan."

Aoi refuted Yui in amazement.

"Who'd be behind such a shabby scheme. People's hormone balance probably just got out of whack during the recovery period."

"Oh yeah I guess so. More importantly, we're soon in the season of sakura, aren't we. How about going flower watching with everyone--"

Yui readily withdrew her claim and changed the subject.

Perhaps the reason why she was going over the top is for the sake of her fiancé who's silently immersing himself in chewing his set meal.



"Rimia, look. Inside these cages."

"Ane-sama, please don't pull so much."

Two sisters who are separated by few years ran about between stalls displaying Blue-furred Squirrels in cages.

These sisters' faces closely resemble each others, but their hair colors differ.

The little sister is blond which is common in Shiga Kingdom, while the elder sister has unusual pink hair.

Those who are familiar with foreign countries and the legend of Ancestor King Yamato would realize that it's a particular trait of the royalty of Rumooku Kingdom.

"Menea-sama, Rimia-sama's arm gonna tear off if you pull it too much y'know?"

A boy wearing servant clothing unabashedly remonstrated the big sister.

"Oh my? Forgive me, Rimia."

"Y-yes, it's okay. Thank you, Kon."

The little sister princess let out a lovely smile.

The kon boy who seemed a bit shy rubbed his upper lip with a silver finger and looked away.

"Looks like your right arm is doing well."

"Yeah, the prosthetic that noble-sama made for me before was not bad itself, but this one's even crazier."

Kon boy moved the fingers on his right arms open and close.

It's moving more agile than a normal arm.

It's an artificial arm called Monitor created by Echigoya Firm, a golem artificial arm made of mithril alloy supplied by Satou.

Kon boy was advised to regenerate his arm with magic potion, but he chose the artificial arm route as it would prove handy in protecting Princess Rimia he's serving.

Next to the two sisters who are watching the Blue-furred Squirrels in harmony, Kon boy surveys his surroundings to fulfill his duty as their escort.

His eyes found a seed of trouble.



"Owww!"

The man jumps up and down while holding his toe, obviously faking it.

"Is everything alright, brother!"

"Big bro, the bone on his toe's a mess."

"That girl stepped on my feet."

China Kelten rounded her eyes in surprise when some men who fit the term ruffians to a T falsely accused her with cheap acting.

"I-I did not! This person is telling a lie."

"What'd you say! Who d'ya think yer' callin' bro a liar!"

The ruffian threatened back at China's protest.

China who's unfamiliar with people's malice screamed and cowered in fear.

To begin with, even if she did step on the ruffian's foot, getting stepped by such a lightweight little girl wouldn't have resulted in bone breaking.

"Stop shouting, you're scaring China-sama."

"It's okay, China."

Crow and Shiro hid China behind their back.

Shiro and Crow showed no sign of fear before the scary faces of these thugs.

For the two who protected the capital from the outbreak of fiendish monsters, there's probably nothing to fear of some slightly violent crowd.

"What's with these two wingers?"

"You playin' princess' knights?"

The ruffians who have no idea the gap in their strength draw closer while flaunting their knives.

"Whoa there, that's far enough!"

"We're the vigilance committee protecting the capital public order from shadow!"

"We're the capital's Pandora Squad."

Several boys rushed between the ruffians and the girls.

"Shatei-san and Mabudachi-san and others!"

Crow's eyes glittered when she saw the boys.

They're the classmates of Pochi and Tama when they were enrolled in the Knight Academy.

"Knew it was Shiro-chan and Crow-chan."

"Leave this to us. We didn't get trained by Pochi and Tama for nuthin'"

The ruffians who tried to assault the Knight Academy's students got all beaten up.

"T-these guys' tough."

"Of course! Don't make light of this body of ours that's been trained everyday to be a knight!"

"You're wide open, brats."

A man who had an aura like that of a veteran warrior came out of a back alley and kicked away a tigerkin knight academy student.

He pulled the sword on his waist and easily parried other students' swords.

"Lieutenant!"

"Hehe, now that Lieutenant's here, yer' all done for."

The ruffians livened up.

"You guys, it's spanking time later. Hell you're doin' getting toyed around by these brats."

The man glared at the ruffians while showing off his scar-filled face and arms.

"Arara~"

"I'll take care of this, Shiro, protect China-sama."

"Ho~i"

"Y-you can't! There's no way Shiro and Crow could win against someone the knight academy students can't beat."

"That's not true~"

"Just watch, don't come out okay."

China tightly held Shiro and Crow who were going to go forward.

Shiro noticed some people approaching and turned there.

"A merc? Looking at those old wounds, can't be a magic hunter or an explorer."

A boy wearing the attire of a guard interjected while curiously touching Shiro's and Crow's wings.

"What's it to ya? Got a problem with me being an ex-merc?"

"Hm? Just thinking that your level is probably not that high if you only ever fought humans."

"Levels ain't everythin'!"

Kon boy easily stepped away from the ex-merc's heavy slash.

This heavy slash from a former mercenary was actually at the level of an expert already, but to Kon boy who learned the basics from a former member of Shiga Eight Swords, Sir Trell, it was not fast enough to lose sight of.

He easily dodged the second and third slashes.

"Kon! Stop playing around and beat him."

The elder one of the two sisters who caught up behind the boy gave an order.

"Eeh, but this is a good chance to get some training in anti-personnel battle."

"Don't underestimate me, you brat!"

The ex-merc unleashes a one-handed sword finisher.

It's the ex-merc's certain-kill finisher that has managed to fell a great number of people in battlefield.

Kon boy parried away the finisher with his short sword, but the sword that should have been parried off returned in an unexpected trajectory.

"Whoa"

The boy catches the ex-merc's sword with his silver hand.

"N-no way!"

The hand then crushed the sword and punched the ex-merc's surprised face hard.

The golem's artificial arm powerful strength not only warped the ex-merc's face but also sent him flying to the other side of the street.

"Kon! Are you alright? Are you hurt anywhere?"

"Rimia-sama, you're such a worrywart~"

Kon boy scratched his cheek.

Chiming sound of a bell reached the ears of the relieved girls and boys.

The sound came from China's [Bell of Justice] that shouldn't have been capable of producing sound.